First Published 1785

THE TIMES

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No 62,091

WEDNESDAY MARCH 20 1985

23p

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Tax allowances above inflation

The Chancellor increased tax allowances by more than inflation. The single person's allowance is raised by £200 to £2,205 and a married man's allowance by £300 to £3,455. Other allowances are also raised. A single person is expected to pay £1.15 a week less tax and a married man £1.73 on standard rate.

Output set to rise by further 3.5%

Output in 1985 as a whole was set to rise by a further 3½ per cent. Inflation may jump for a time "perhaps to 6 per cent" by the middle of the year, but would then fall back to 5 per cent by the end of the year and would be "lower still" in 1986 Page 12

Capital gains tax reformed

A three-pronged reform of capital gains tax will cost £155 million in a full year. Part of the reform involves the abolition of the "12-month rule" on indexation relief from April 6 Page 6

Road licence up to £100

The annual road fund licence for cars and light vehicles would be increased from £90 to £100. A new system of road taxation for heavy lorries was to be introduced. Changes in vehicle taxation would bring in an extra £820 million in the year '85 to '86 Page 9

Help for the self-employed

The self-employed will be able to offset half their National Insurance contributions against tax from April 6. From October 1, the flat rate for self-employed will be cut from £4.75 to £3.50. Page 8

YTS scheme to be widened

The Government is to promote a "substantial expansion" of the Youth Training Scheme to provide either a job or training for all under 18-year-olds Page 8

Credit cards exemption

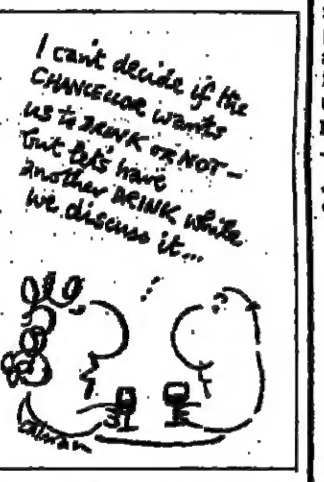
From May 1, transactions between credit card companies and outlets accepting them will be classified as exempt from Vat, so companies will not be able to recover Vat for these transactions, raising £15 million in 1985-6 and £20 million in a full year Page 7

VAT base pegged

Mr Lawson said he did not intend to make any further changes in the VAT base during the lifetime of this Parliament – except for the imposition of VAT on newspaper and magazine advertising from May 1 Page 6

Drinks to cost more

Beer is expected to go up 1½p a pint, table wine 6p a bottle, sparkling wine 10p a bottle and cider 1p a pint. Duty on all has been raised by more than the inflation rate. But the problems of the Scotch whisky industry persuaded the Chancellor to put up duty on spirits by only 10p a bottle, much less than inflation Page 7



Cigarettes to go up by 6p

Cigarettes are to go up by 6p a packet of 20 from midnight on Thursday, but there is no increase on cigars and pipe tobacco Page 7

Development land tax

Development land tax is abolished with immediate effect. Deferred charges on the tax will also be cancelled Page 8

15 stamp duties go

The number of documents needing to be stamped will be reduced by 40 per cent as 15 separate stamp duties are *abolished in an attempt to* modernize the system Page 6

Wage councils changes

A consultative document on the future of wages councils willbe issued later thi week to cover a number of proposals for "*radical change*", inluding complete abolition Page 8

BES changes

The Business Expansion Scheme, designed to encourage investment by individuals in new business in risk areas, will include research and development companies but exclude property development ventures Page 8

Jobless aid

The community programme, providing 130,000 places for the long-term unemployed, is to be extended to another 120,000 places by June next year at a cost of £140 million this year and £460 million in 1986-87. Page 8

Strategy holds

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is on course and short-term interest rates would be held at the level needed to maintain the Government's commitment to low inflation Page 9

Petrol up 4p

Petrol tax increased from 6pm last night with 4p on a gallon at the pumps and the corresponding increase for derv 3½p Page 7

Separate tax

A consultative Green Paper on the reform of personal income tax is to be issued this year, proposing that husbands and wives claim their allowances separately. Page 5

Pension funds

Mr Lawson said he had no plans to change taxation on pension funds despite pre-Budget reports and agitation. Page 8

NCB strike bill

The National Coal Board lost at least £1,850 million because of the miners' strike, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, old the Commons. The aftermath would cause further losses in the coming financial year.

Reserves rise

Contingency reserves for public spending to be increased by about £2 billion for each of the next three years, an increase of about 1-1/2 per cent Page 9

And next year . . .

The Chancellor made net tax concessions of only £750 million, half of what he had predicted in November. But he is expecting to be able to give away up to £3,500 million next year, according to calculations published by the Treasury Page 12

Tory MPs wanted the Chancellor to spend more

Budget will be judged by effect on jobs

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Chancellor of the Exchequer did just about enough yesterday to keep his supporters happy, given his well recognized difficulties this spring.

"I was extremely boxed in and confined, and I had to find ways of doing as much good as I could both on the inflation and on the jobs front", Mr Nigel Lawson said at a press conference at Westminster an hour after his speech.

But Conservative MPs will wait with considerable nervousness to see the yield in jobs from the tax and national insurance changes, and the removal of legal restraints on employment, and to see whether the benefits begin to appear before the next general election is due.

The first backbench Conservative to enter the debate when Mr Lawson sat down was Mr David Knox, so far out on the party's liberal wing as to be far from representative. But he spoke for all his fellow Tories when he said sternly that the Budget would be judged on its effect on employment, and rightly so.

Most Conservatives would have liked the Chancellor to have spent more, and most seemed to believe last night that he could have done so without offending the markets or risking his medium-term strategy.

They recognized that Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, made a potent political point in the Commons when he asked why the Chancellor could find £2,000 million to fight the miners but not to fight unemployment.

One senior Conservative said the Budget speech was "a busted flush" until the last five minutes, when the tapering of National Insurance contributions for those at the lower end of the earnings scale, and the graduated scale, was announced.

It is a change for which there has been great pressure within the party. Ministers' private estimate is that it may stimulate the creation of about 200,000 new jobs over time.

ON OTHER PAGES

Mr Kinnock, as Mr Lawson pointed out later, fully endorsed that reform when he said in the Commons that it was a pity Mr Lawson had taken so long to make the move. "Who knows how many jobs could have been saved", he asked, "if successive Chancellors had taken the opportunity of reducing contributions!"

But Mr Kinnock's general verdict was severe. The country had seen a remorseless increase in unemployment, he said, and on that basis the Budget was a failure.

He also described as ominous the Government's intention to withdraw entitlement from young people who refuse places on the expanded youth training scheme.

Some Conservatives noted with approval the raising of some excise duties by more than the rate of inflation so as to help pay for income tax cuts.

The Chancellor's decision to raise the basic income tax allowances by more than the higher-rate thresholds and bands was taken by the employment lobby in the Conservative Party as showing welcome responsiveness to the widely urged view that the worst-off should be helped the most.

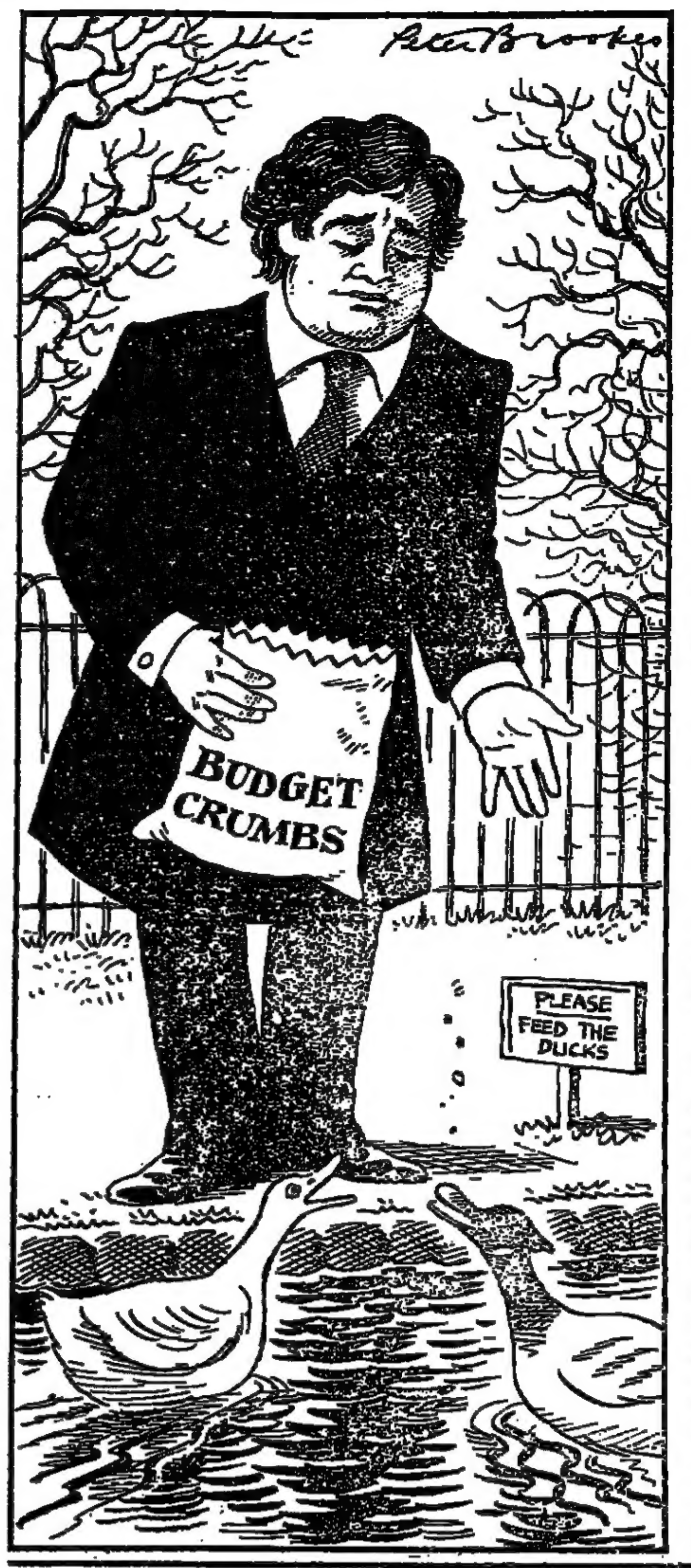
But the predominant Tory feeling was one of relief that Mr Lawson had resisted making the several changes he had been rumoured to have in mind: the taxation of pensions and pension funds and the spread of value-added tax to books or children's shoes. No one appeared to object to its extension to newspaper advertising.

One Tory, Mr Jonathan Aitken, said they were "pleased about the dogs that did not bark in the night".

Asked why he had held his hand and had ruled out further changes in VAT, Mr Lawson told journalists last night that he had taken the view that it was not worth the complication of going down either route at present.

"There are very strong feelings about pensions in this country". He said, "and also considerable complexities in pensions legislation."

These feelings might not be the sign of a dynamic society, he said, but it was only fair (he might have added politically prudent) to take them into account.



Income tax cut by rise in allowances

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor again chose to cut income tax by raising allowances rather than by cutting rates. Basic tax allowances were raised by roughly 10 per cent, twice that required to compensate for inflation.

The tax change is worth £730 million in 1985/86 and takes 800,000 people out of tax, the Chancellor said.

Mr Lawson also promised a Green Paper on personal taxation later this year. The aim will be to simplify income tax. One change that the Treasury will be pressing is the separate taxation of husbands and wives. However, any action on that is unlikely before 1990.

The single person's allowance was raised by £200, from £2,005 to £2,205. That is worth £1.15 a week to a single person paying tax at the basic rate.

The married man's allowance was raised from £3,155 to £3,455, a £300 increase. Other basic allowances, including the age allowance and the widow's bereavement allowance, were raised by between 7.6 per cent and 8.7 per cent.

The income tax cuts were concentrated on basic allowances; the thresholds of the higher rate were raised by only a little more than inflation. The top-rate threshold, at which 60 per cent income tax starts, was raised from £38,100 to £40,200.

The aim is to alleviate the so-called poverty and unemployment traps, which occur because of high marginal rates of tax at the lower end of the income scale. When combined with loss of benefit, they can provide big distortions.

The increases mean that, in real terms, allowances are 20 per cent higher than when the Government took office, Mr Lawson said.

MARRIED COUPLES – INCOME ALL EARNED – ANNUAL FIGURES

	Charge for 1984-85		Proposed charge for 1985-86		Reduction in tax after proposed change	
Income	Income tax	Percentage of total income taken in tax	Income tax	Percentage of total income taken in tax	Income tax	As percentage of total income
£	£	%	£	%	£	%
3,500	103	3.0	13	0.4	90	2.6
4,000	253	6.3	163	4.1	90	2.3
5,000	553	11.1	463	9.3	90	1.8
6,000	853	14.2	763	12.7	90	1.5
7,000	1,153	16.5	1,063	15.2	90	1.3
8,000	1,453	18.2	1,363	17.0	90	1.1
9,000	,753	19.5	1,663	18.5	90	1.0
10,000	2,053	20.5	1,963	19.6	90	0.9
12,000	2,653	22.1	2,563	21.4	90	0.8
14,000	3,253	23.2	3,163	22.6	90	0.6
16,000	3,853	24.1	3,763	23.5	90	0.6
18,000	4,453	24.7	4,363	24.2	90	0.5
20,000	5,198	26.0	4,998	25.0	200	1.0
25,000	7,380	29.5	7,115	28.5	265	1.1
30,000	9,817	32.7	9,472	31.6	345	1.2
40,000	15,130	37.8	14,685	36.7	445	1.1
50,000	21,067	42.1	20,502	41.0	565	1.1

Calculations assume that only the husband has earned income.

£900m more for job projects

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

The Government has earmarked an extra £1,000m to extend special employment programmes over the next three years in the drive to improve training opportunities for the young and long-term unemployed.

The Youth Training Scheme, which at the moment provides a year's vocational training for 350,000 unemployed school leavers is to be extended to a second year for 16-year-olds and will guarantee a place for unemployed 17-year-olds. In total 200,000 extra places are being provided.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said last night that the Government's decision to extend YTS was a "*major step*" towards ensuring that all young people under 18 would be in full time employment, education of receiving good quality training. The YTS, which will this year cost £800m, had a mixed reception when it was launched two years ago but has since won over soe critics in the unions and among youth organizations. The extension to a two-year programme for 16-year-olds will start in April next year, and there will be transitional arrangements to allow as many as possible of the youngsters on the scheme this year to move on to a second year of training in 1986.

Continued on page 9, col 7

Chancellor acts to restore his image

By Kenneth Fleet and Sarah Hogg

As the pound rose to precrisis levels, hitting $1.16 in New York, the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced a Budget firmly designed to restore his financial reputation. A fall in bank base rates is now expected.

While the defeat of inflation through sound money remained the Government's overriding objective, it was no longer enough. "We must also do what we can to combat the scourge of unemployment," the Chancellor told the Commons in his Budget statement yesterday.

The promised "Budget for Jobs" includes a wide range of specific measures, notably changes in national insurance contributions and higher income tax allowances to benefit the lower paid. At the same time, the Chancellor has sought to rebuild his reputation in the *City for financial rectitude.*

By avoiding new impositions – pensions are untouched and the only strong extension of value added tax is to newspaper and magazine advertising – the Chancellor has deliberately not offended the susceptibilities or frayed the nerves of his own party. Mr Nigel Lawson promised that, European community requirements apart, he would make no further changes in VAT during the life of this Parliament.

The one slight exception to a benign Budget is increases in excise duties on beer, table wine and cigarettes. Those are between one and a half and twice last year's 4.6 per cent inflation rate, putting an extra 1½p on a pint of beer, 6p on a bottle of wine and 6p on a packet of 20 cigarettes.

Initial City reaction to the Budget was muted, though broadly favourable. The pound had risen strongly against the dollar in the morning, reaching $1.1450 against $1.1044 at Monday's London close.

After Mr Lawson sat down, the pound surged further ahead in New York. By mid-afternoon in New York, the dollar had plunged to $1.1655 to the pound.

In London, the key three months inter-bank interest rate dropped to 13¼-13⅛, almost enough to trigger a one point cut in base rates.

To help the ailing Scotch whisky industry, duty on spirits is increased by 10p a bottle, which is *less than half* last year's inflation.

Duty on petrol is raised about 4p a gallon, taking it decisively through the £2 mark at the pump, and on derv, 3½p. Vehicle excise duty is raised £10 to £100 and heavey commercial vehicles will incur stiffer duty.

The most significant proposals is a cut in national insurance contributions paid by the lower paid and by employers on their behalf. In total the cost of employing some

Continued on page 9, col 1

VAT levied on newspaper advertising

David Smith,
Economics Correspondent

Value added tax will not be imposed on food, children's clothing or books during the lifetime of this Parliament, the Chancellor promised yesterday.

Mr Nigel Lawson's long-awaited widening of the VAT net was modest. newspaper and magazine advertising was brought into VAT, in line with other types of advertising.

That will raise an extra £30 million in 1985/86, and £50 million when the tax applies for a full year. It is to be introduced on May 1.

Opec unity threatened by Algeria

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) which is reviewing Britain's decision to abandon setting an official price for North Sea oil is now faced with a new split within its ranks.

Algeria yesterday announced that it is cutting the price of its crude oil by a dollar a barrel and Ecuador is refusing to open its books to the new Opec auditing commission monitoring prices and output.

Algeria, which refused to endorse the new Opec price structure in January, sells about 25 per cent of its oil output as crude.

Ecuador has said that it will provide details of its oil pricing policies, but will not allow independent monitoring.

The Opec President, Dr Subroto, the Indonesian Oil Minister, said yesterday in Geneva that the abolition of the British National Oil Corporation would have no short-term effect.

£11m loss by BL

BL, the state-owned car group, dipped back into the red last year with an operating loss of £11.7 million against its £4.1 million profit in 1983. After tax and interest, the loss was £81 million Page 21

Kremlin seek May summit

The Kremlin sees the May celebration marking the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitler as ideal timing for a US-Soviet Summit, according to Soviet sources. Mr Mikhail Gorbacho: is already being referred to as head of the Politburo, only eight days after becoming Communist Party General Secretary Page 4

£10m jobs boost

Sally Line, the ferry company based at Ramsgate, Kent, announced yesterday a £10 million plan to increase its number of berths from two to six creating 1,000 jobs.

ICI chief's pay rises by 68%

Mr John Harvey-Jones, the chairman of ICI, had his pay increased last year by 68 per cent, a rise of £2,230 a week. His total pay went up from £170,999 to £287,261.

The other seven executive directors of the company – the first non-oil company to make profits of more than £1 billion in a year – also had substantial rises, it was disclosed yesterday in the annual report.

The dramatic improvement in ICI's results last year, with pretax profits jumping from £619 million to £1.034 billion, has helped push the directors' salary bill up from just under £1.2 million to just over £1.7 million. All eight of the company's executive directors earn more than £175,000 a year

The scale of the increases was defended by Mr Harvey-Jones, one of the more flamboyant of Britain's industrial leaders. "It is not for us to say if we are worth what we are paid." he said. Page 21

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr G Nelson of Rochdale, Lancs. Portfolii list, page 20; how to play, information service, back page.

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Key staff losses harm running of councils to be abolished

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

A steady loss of key workers is threatening the smooth running of the seven large councils that the Government intends to abolish in just over a year. The quango set up to look after the job prospects of those councils' workers has called for exceptional measures to safeguard services in the coming final year.

It says that councils may have to make temporary promotions to cover for the absence of senior personnel. They may also have to persuade some of their oldest workers to stay on after normal retirement age.

The London and Metropolitan Government Staff Commission has failed to find out how many staff have already left the seven councils. Some of the answers were given to *The Times* yesterday. No overall figure was available from South Yorkshire County Council but West Midlands County Council said it already had 350 vacancies, representing almost 9 per cent of its white-collar establishment.

The Greater London Council has a total establishment of 24,365, including the London Fire Brigade and 1,801 unfilled posts. Merseyside County Council has lost 250 staff, or about 4 per cent of its total workforce. The other Labour-led county councils that the Government wants to scrap are Tyne and Wear, West Yorkshire, and Greater Manchester.

All seven councils, almost all local government unions and the Labour-led councils which are supposed to take on new responsibilities after abolition have refused to discuss abolition of the quango. They and Labour-led associations of councils believe that talking to the quango would amount to tacit acceptance of abolition.

Sir Philip Woodfield, chairman of the quango, appealed yesterday to organizations boycotting it to distinguish between "fighting the proposed reorganization and making contingency plans". He was speaking after members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) from the West Midlands had gone against their union's policy by meeting the commission about job prospects after abolition.

The staff being lost are professionals with "marketable skills" who can readily find work elsewhere, so there may be an awkward gap later in the year when successor authorities start recruiting staff from the seven councils threatened with abolition.

● Several of the rate-capped councils which have refused to fix rates until the Government dismantles their spending curbs are to meet next week. The meetings of councils such as the London boroughs of Lambeth and Camden have been called by opposition Conservative councillors.

Ruling Labour councillors have been warned that they will face rapid loss of grant and legal action if they do not fix rates early in the financial year, which begins in April. A cash crisis is likely to be reached first in the London borough of Hackney.

Meanwhile, other Labour-led councils continue to impose rate rises well above the rate of inflation. They include Wolverhampton with a 13 per cent rise

Pit strike riot cases broke records

By Frances Gibb

A record number of charges of the most serious public order offences of riot and unlawful assembly were brought during the year-long miners' dispute, according to final figures published by Lord Elton, Minister of the State at the Home Office, yesterday.

A total of 137 charges of riot and 509 of unlawful assembly were brought. The biggest category of offence was conduct likely to lead to a breach of the peace, under which 4,107 charges were brought.

The 10,372 criminal charges brought during the dispute were: Murder 3; Assault causing grievous bodily harm 39; Assault causing actual bodily harm 429; Assaulting a police constable 360; Possessing an offensive weapon 49; Riot 137; Unlawful assembly 509; Affray 21; Conduct conducive to a breach of the peace (Section 5 Public Order Act 1936) 4,107; Breach of the peace 207; Criminal damage 1,019; Criminal damage with intent to endanger life 4; Arson 15; Burglary 31; Theft 352; Handling stolen property 1; Obstruction of a police constable 1,682; Assault with intent to resist arrest 19; Breach of bail conditions 32; Obstruction of the highway 640; Reckless driving 16; Threats to kill 5; Threats/conspiracy to cause damage 13; Attempt (various offences) 18; Incitement 1; Intimidation (Section 7 of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875) 275; Unlawful imprisonment 2; Explosives offences 3; Drug offences 1; Railway offences 20; Drunkenness 66.

● Seven pit strike rebels who returned to work at Yorkshire's most militant pit claim that requests to be transferred or made redundant were being ignored by the National Coal Board, overturning promises to protect all working miners from intimidation.

The rebels who were among the few to return to Markham Main colliery at Armthorpe, have been told they can work on the surface of the pit but the move would cost them £70 a week in wages.

Mr Geoffrey Richmond holding a commemorative medal he designed for veterans of Bomber Command or their next of kin after Lady Harris, widow of Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, started the machinery striking at Pobjoy Mint, Sutton, Surrey, yesterday (Photograph: Stephen Blogg).

Soviet warning of trade reprisals

By Michael Baily
Transport Editor

The Soviet Union may take retaliatory action against countries that discriminate against its ships, Mr George Maslov, head of Sovfracht, Russia's worldwide freight organization, said yesterday.

Retaliation might not be confined to shipping but could affect general trade between the USSR and other countries, he told world dry cargo shipowners in London.

Mr Maslov rejected Western charges that Soviet shipping was responsible either for the world shipping slump or for disruption in Western shipping trade.

The Soviet merchant fleet, at 1810 ships of 19.8 million deadweight tonnes, was only 3 per cent of the world merchant fleet, and would probably reduce in size by 1990, after growing very slowly in recent years, he said.

The size and composition of the Soviet merchant fleet was dictated by the requirements of domestic traffic and the national share of world trade, of which Soviet shipping generally carried 45 to 55 per cent.

The Soviet Union believed in free competition in its foreign trade, and Western states that blamed it for disruptions and the shipping surplus should reflect that a controlling 76 per cent of the world's fleet was owned by them.

● New safety measures for passenger helicopters are recommended in a report which blames pilot error for the Isles of Scilly crash, nearly two years ago, in which 20 people died, Mr Malcolm Bruce, Liberal MP for Gordon said yesterday.

He hoped recommendations in the report, including an audible warning if the pilot flies too low, would be published next Thursday. Mr Bruce said that he had advance information of its findings.

"The main conclusion of the report is that the pilot, Mr Dominic Lawlor, who was operating visual and instruments on his approach then went on to visual only, became disoriented, and descended into the water without realizing he was doing so.

"The main recommendation is that there should be an audible height warning. The instrument should be moved to where it can be better seen by the pilot.

"If that had happened a warning sound would have told the pilot he was too low. He would then have seen what his height was and been able to pull up again."

Mr Bruce said that the report came 20 months after the disaster, when something could have been done only a few weeks afterwards.

Teachers' image hurt by strike

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Teachers do their image irreparable harm by going on strike, Lady Warnock, Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, will say in the Dimbleby Lecture.

They put themselves on a level with other wage-earners – miners, car-workers, and those whose jobs are concerned with producing goods, and are almost bound to make an enemy of parents.

Lady Warnock's lecture, to be shown on BBC1 television on Friday night, coincides with indefinite selective strike action in schools, organized by the two biggest teachers' unions in support of a claim for a flat-rate £1,200 rise.

"Teachers themselves must learn that it is not a blanket pay rise they need, but a proper salary structure within both the primary and the secondary sector," says Lady Warnock, a former headmistress of Oxford High School.

"It will be a terrible blow to the prestige and standing of teachers if the National Union of Teachers insists on all teachers coming out on strike for a rise for everyone, and so blocks the way to a more radical but far more fruitful reform.

Arguing that parents have lost respect for teachers, she says they must acquire a new professionalism. They must reform themselves.

● Teachers should be trained by a new group of tutors, recruited from practising teachers, and this should be done in specially designated "teaching schools".

● Teachers: performance should be assessed by the General Teaching Council.

● Salaries should be restructured to increase pay differentials so that it was worth teachers wanting to get to the top.

Lady Warnock, who has chaired two important committees, on human fertilization and education of the handicapped, argues one of the reasons for teachers losing parents' respect is that "parents may feel that their children are being indoctrinated with certain social and political beliefs which they, the parents, do not share."

● They should set up a General Teaching Council to decide standards and strike off those who fall below them.

There is continuing dissatisfaction of education and the morale of teachers is low.

"The trouble lies in the very heart of the school system, in the attitude towards education of those most closely involved, the teachers," she says.

Morale of teachers 'at low ebb'

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

Chief eduction officers admitted yesterday that the morale of teachers is at a low ebb, not just because of their complaints about pay.

They are frustrated by lack of opportunities for promotional or for redeployment to other schools because of falling pupil rolls, and unjustified public criticism, the House of Commons education select committee was told.

The Society of Education Officers, which represents education chiefs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, also implicitly criticized Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State of Education, for the "negative" way in which he had presented his plans for assessing annually the standard of teachers.

Mr Dennis Hatfield, chief education officer of Trafford, told MPs: "If the question of assessment could be approached from a positive angle rather than, as it seems to be, simply a device to sack people or to reduce numbers, that would contribute to an increase in morale".

Mr Peter Boulter, director of education in Cumbria, told the select committee: "The status within society as a whole of the teachers has taken rather a knock. I think their professional status and standing needs to be examined in the broadest way."

Defence pension questioned

The Prime Minister is being asked to confirm that Mr Peter Levene, Whitehall's new £95,000 a year Chief of Defence Procurement, is to benefit from an extra £12,000 in pension contributions from the taxpayer (our Political Correspondent writes).

Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East, yesterday tabled 12 Commons questions about the appointment of Mr Levine, a highly successful defence contractor.

Legal advice had shown that ministers were mistaken in believing that Mr Levene, aged 43, could be appointed without a certificate of qualification, the Civil Service Commissioners' formal approval of a candidate's suitability

A special exemption was sought and obtained

Mr Brown yesterday showed particular concern at the Prime Minister's statement that the initial mistake was due to Mr Levene being seconded to Whitehall. When Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, announced the appointment on December 19 he had failed to mention secondment.

Special school closed by union action

By Our Education Correspondent

A special school for problem children was forced to close yesterday because of a strike by the second biggest teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters / Union of Women Teachers.

Penwithen School at Winterborne Monkton near Dorchester, Dorset, was singled out for the strike because of the high proportion of NAS / UWT members on its staff. It has 45 children, aged seven to 16, with learning, emotional or social problems. The 18 boaders were taken out for the day by houseparents and the rest stayed at home.

Mr Barry Gisbourne, the Dorset secretary of the union, said special schools had always been excluded from industrial action in the past. He said: "Special teachers are the most caring in the profession. But they are as alarmed as anyone else about what is happening to the education service and we had many requests for them to take part in our section."

Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of the conciliation service, ACAS, yesterday met the local authority employers of teachers for exploratory talks. Today he will meet Mr Fred Jarvis, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers and leader of the teachers' panel.

● Teachers in Scotland who are prepared to intensify industrial action in pursuit of an independent pay review, were criticized by Mr Alan Stewart, the Scottish Education Minister, for refusing to negotiate.

Dame Vera Lynn to receive Burma Star

Dame Vera Lynn, who gained the title of the Forces' Sweetheart for her wartime singing, is to receive the Burma Star Medal.

The Ministry of Defence awards the medal to people who spent time in the Burma war zone, including civilians.

Dame Vera qualified by entertaining the British guerrilla units in Japanese-occupied Burma. She belonged to the Burma Entertainment Services Association, formed by Jack Hawkins, the actor.

£1,000 trip to water works

The Thames Water Authority is charging foreign undertakings interested in buying its expertise £1,000 a day to visit its works.

Mr Ken West, managing director of the authority, said yesterday that the charge had been instituted to limit commercial visitors to those who are seriously interested. "We have had about 30 delegations paying up since we began charging three months ago", he said.

Missing witness still stays silent over drugs

The daughter of the Lady Bute, Mrs Katherine Bentley, told Knightsbridge Crown Court yesterday of her past addiction to drugs. But the former model added: "I decline to say whether I bought the drugs on the grounds that I may incriminate myself".

She also refused to say whether she had used a cheque to buy drugs.

Mrs Bentley, aged 28, the former wife of Mr John Bentley, the City tycoon, failed to turn up to give evidence on Friday. She explained that she had moved and "had no idea I was a witness".

Earlier the court was told that two cheques drawn on Mrs Bentley's account were found in the possession of Mrs Diana Willis, aged 41, of Holland Park, west London, who denies four charges of supplying drugs on or before last June.

The hearing continues.

Mrs Bentley: drug denial.

Smear tests halted

Cancer tests on women patients in Oxfordshire ground to a halt earlier this year, Mr Tom Richarson, Secretary of Oxfordshire Community Health Council, said yesterday. Technicians at the Churchill Hospital Laboratory, Oxford, refused to take on any extra cases for at least a month after Christmas.

And for six months last year they asked doctors to send only urgent smears for testing for cancer of the womb.

Mr Richardson had earlier desclosed that one woman had died and two others were seriously ill after blunders over their tests.

He said problems of the cytology laboratory mounted up last year around the time the Department's consultant cytologist was retiring.

£8m government building is cracking up

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The Department of the Environment, Mr Patrick Jenkin's £8 million headquarters in Westminster, is cracking up.

Sir George Young, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the department, has told Mr Jeff Rooker, the Opposition frontbencher, that "first-aid remedial action" had been undertaken for "concrete defects in the superstructure" of the 18-storey, three-block building.

Students keen to forge link with industry

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

University and polytechnic students are flocking to join student industrial societies to learn how industry works and to visit companies. (Our Education Correspondent writes).

There are now "Indsocs" in every university and many polytechnics. In some colleges they are the largest student society, outdoing both the Conservative Association and the Christian Union.

At Cambridge University, for example, the "Indsoc" membership now exceeds 2,000, which is 200 more than the Conservative Association.

The first Indsoc was founded in the late 1970s at Cambridge, with backing from the Industrial Society in London. Mr Paul Hill, president of the Liverpool University Indsoc, said the purpose was to give members some experience of industry

Drug evidence was 'taken improperly'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Pipes, inhalers and syringes, allegedly used for drug-taking, and weapons which were displayed at the House of Commons by the Prison Officers Association had been "improperly removed" from a youth custody centre, the Home Office said yesterday.

A letter from the Prison Department to Mr David Evans, general secretary of the association, said the devices were taken from Finnamore Wood Camp, Buckinghamshire, by two members of the association's national executive committee without the authority of the governor, Mr E. R. Campbell. They were shown to a press conference.

"There is no evidence to support the assertion that drug-taking is widespread and is the result of inmates being influenced by private gangs of bullies", Mr G. H. Lakes, deputy-general of the Prison Department said in the letter.

But the Prison Department does admit that since January 1, 1984, there had been 11 incidents associated with cannabis, involving 14 inmates.

Briton is back home after Angola ordeal

Mr Glen Dixon, the British mining engineer seized by rebel Unita forces in Angola 10 weeks ago and forced to march 300 miles through jungle, arrived at Heathrow yesterday saying he would return to Africa "in a couple of months' time".

Mr Dixon, aged 47, from Loughborough, Leicestershire, was among 22 expatriates kidnapped by the guerrillas at the diamond-mining town of Cafunfo. They included two other Britons, Mr John McMichael, an engineer from Onagh, Northern Ireland, and Mr Paul Huggins, an aircraft load master from Dorking, Surrey, who are also being released without conditions.

Mr Dixon said he already had a choice of contracts to return to Zambia or Sierra Leone. He said that there next time he hoped to take his wife, Linda, with him.

The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 170; Cyprus 700 mils; Denmark Dkr 9.00; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 120; Holland Gl 3.50; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 8.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.90; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 8.50; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 150

The lessons of Sizewell: 3

Lost energy could heat homes

Of every three tons of coal, oil or uranium burnt in a power station, less than a ton reaches the consumer as electricity. But as the Sizewell public inquiry was told this need not be so. PEARCE WRIGHT, Science Editor, reports in the last of three articles.

There are many novel methods for generating electricity that are not exploited in Britain. They include power from the tides, waves, sun and wind. Some limited development of wind generators is in progress.

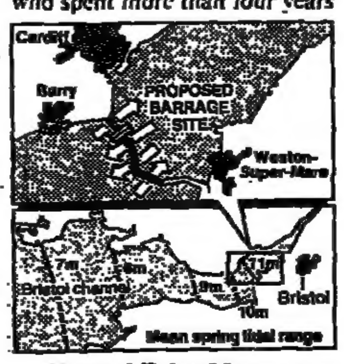
But in discussing renewable energy at the Sizewell public inquiry, the Central Electricity Generating Board lumped all the ideas under the heading "alternative methods of electricity generation". Much to the consternation of some experts, this category also included items such as combined heat and power (CHP) systems.

Two thirds of the coal, oil and nuclear fuel used to generate electricity is wasted in the form of heat discharged into the atmosphere and to warm the fish around the cooling water outflows from power stations. Yet there is a perfectly practical way of taking this heat and carrying it by a network of pipes to heat homes, offices and factories. It is common in Europe and the United States. The CEGB accepts that CHP is a proven technology.

The reason why it is not pursued by the CEGB is partly an attitude of mind. The board is committed to building large stations such as that planned for Sizewell.

There are economies of scale to be achieved that way, whereas the CHP approach achieves its efficiency, and up to 80 per cent of available energy is claimed to be exploited, in smaller power plants closer to towns. In theory up to 30 per cent of the country's domestic and commercial heat could be supplied that way.

That is such a beguiling alternative, and especially attractive to the conservationist streak in all of us, that one feels there must be some catch. There is not. That conclusion was reached six years ago by a group of senior scientists, engineers and public servants who spent more than four years



Planned Bristol barrage

examining the idea. Led by Dr (now Sir) Walter Marshall, before he moved from the Atomic Energy Authority to become chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, they concluded there was every reason to go ahead with a CHP scheme for a sizeable British city. The capital cost for a population of one million would be about £500 million.

The CEGB's stance at the Sizewell inquiry was that it was in the business of buying electricity generating plant that worked, not setting up a network for piping heat to consumers. Yet at the Sizewell inquiry the CEGB made clear that if some one else developed a CHP project, such as one proposed by the Greater London Council, the board would expect to be involved in running it.

A similar approach has been adopted toward a venture that could provide the single largest source of electricity generation: a tidal barrage across the river Severn. It would be equivalent to four or five stations the size of the one planned for Sizewell.

Again the board accepts that the technology is well established, but says: "There is not incentive for the CEGB to build it in preference to nuclear power stations. The technical feasibility is not in doubt. The Government has a proposal from a consortium of industrial firms, seeking its backing. The CEGB conveyed to the Government its views, namely that it would raise no objection to the barrage being designed, constructed and operated by private industry with private funds and that it would be prepared to accept the output from the barrage."

The consortium has been studying the sort of scheme suggested in the report on *Tidal Power from the Severn Estuary* made in 1981 by a group of experts working with Sir Herman Bondi. The most cost-effective one would cost about £5,600 million.

The Severn estuary is particularly suitable because of the large tidal range.

Concluded

Wartime RAF officer gets life for part in killing of Maze prison chief

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A retired Civil Servant and wartime Royal Air Force officer who became a spy for the Provisional IRA, was yesterday jailed for life for the "vicious" terrorist murder in Belfast of a deputy governor of the Maze prison.

Lord Justice Kelly, passing sentence at Belfast Crown Court, said that Owen Connolly, aged 64, a former senior clerical officer at the Department of Agriculture, played a "prominent and despicable part" in setting up the prison officer for murder.

Connolly's wife, Margaret, aged 52, and daughter Carmel, aged 23, also received prison sentences for the 'shameful' part in concealing the plot, using their east Belfast home as a base for the gang.

The murdered man's widow was in the public gallery as the prosecution outlined how Mr William McConnell, aged 35, was shot dead in front of her and their daughter, aged three, in what was described as one of the most vicious murders, even by the standards of Northern Ireland.

Connolly, who is permanently deaf in one ear after being injured during one of his 30 wartime bombing missions over Germany, admitted murdering Mr McConnell, who was shot outside his home in east Belfast a year ago. He pleaded guilty to six other terrorist charges, including possession of firearms, and collecting information on policemen and prison officers.

Margaret Connolly was given two prison sentences, of five years and four years, after admitting failing to disclose information about the killing, and impeding the arrest of the terrorists by washing wigs and jackets.

Carmel Connolly, a typist with the Department of Health and Social Security, was given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, after pleading guilty to failing to disclose information about the murder.

Jailing Connolly, the judge said that he had used his appearance of respectability as a cover to get information on the prison officer. He had kept an all-night watch at his home for the terrorists and "appeared to share in their satisfaction at the success of this sordid murder".

Connolly had given the gang every assistance, buying razors to shave off their moustaches, concealing weapons in the attic, getting food, and sitting with them to watch the harrowing television pictures of the aftermath of the killing.

He had led them from his house to help them escape and later returned the guns and wigs to his "terrorist confederates".

The judge said that Connolly, a Roman Catholic living less than a mile from the prison officer in a strongly Protestant area of Belfast, had developed a sense of grievance, believing religious discrimination had stopped his promotion in the Civil Service. His increasing bitterness led him to extreme republican groups, and to believe that violence was the only way to achieve a united Ireland where there would be justice for all.

He allowed his terrace house to be used as a "safe house" for the Provisional IRA for five years and as a domineering and strong-willed man brushed aside protests from his wife and daughter.

The prosecution said that his wife and daughter had been aware on the night before the killing that Mr Connell was to be murdered.

Mr Michael Lavery, QC, for the defence, said they had all expressed regret and remorse at the death. The two women were now completely friendless

Five other men have also been accused of the murder. A date for their trial has yet to be fixed.

Sinclair cuts back computer production

By Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

Sir Clive Sinclair, the biggest supplier of home computers to the high street, has slowed production for the next month because of stocktaking, an indication that the home computer market may still be in serious trouble.

High street retailers were heavily stocked after Christmas because sales did not reach the level expected. Sinclair had a disastrous month in January because of low orders, and the company was forced to write-off £1 million after Christmas because the price of its Spectrum was reduced £50.

After the publication of his nine-month figures for the period ending in December, Sir Clive conceded that he was holding stocks valued at £34 million, which included the flat-screen television launched 18 months ago and the microcomputers.

A Sinclair spokesman said: "We had intended to slow production at this stage. But slowing down and rescheduling has turned out to be greater than planned last year.

However, every single major retailing network has re-ordered since the price drop in February".

The nine-month pre-tax profit of Sinclair Research was £7.9 million but the bad sales in January may reduce that figure substantially. The company expects to be in profit at the end of its financial year, in April.

The company sold 50,000 of its QL microcomputers last year and believes it can sell four times that number this year. The QL will be one of three products, the others being the flat-screen television and a watch radio , to be launched in the United States this year.

No sales figures have been made available on the number of flat-screen televisions sold to date. They were first stocked by a few high street retailers just before Christmas.

In the past two weeks the Sinclair C5 electric vehicle has been on sale in the high street. Wigfalls, Vallances, Supreme Stores, and Comet are among principal suppliers.

Most consider it too early to establish whether the vehicle will be a commercial success. Vallance, the Leeds-based retailers, report strong interest from a holiday camp.

Sinclair, which had been selling the vehicle by mail order, claims to have sold more than 5,000 by this method.

Royal recognition: PC Norman Thornborrow, aged 43, who has worked for the past 11 years protecting members of the Royal Family, after receiving the Royal Victorian Silver Medal from the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday. With him are his daughters Anna, aged 12 (left), and Cassie, aged 14.

JPs urged to consider tougher sentencing

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates are being urged not to let penalties they impose for criminal offences slip behind the new tougher levels just agreed for road traffic offences.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said yesterday: "The public do complain that magistrates seem to be tough at the moment on motorists and not so tough on criminals and there has in the past been some measure of justification for that view".

Magistrates should ensure that they consider appropriate rises in penalties for offences such as assault, theft and criminal damage so that those penalties do not lag behind the new levels recommended for road traffic offences, he said.

The main factor behind the new recommended 15 to 20 per cent increase of fines for road traffic offences, was that last May maximum penalties for all offences were doubled, Mr Norman said.

For the first time magistrates are being urged to consider a custodial sentence for the offence of driving while disqualified.

The starting fine for drink-driving offences is recommended to rise from £120 to £200, with a wider use of short jail sentences.

Diet 'could end women's bad days'

By Patricia Clough

The misery of pre-menstrual tension (PMT), which has caused unhappiness for millions of women and their families, can be dispelled with a carefully-adjusted diet, a group of nutritionists have found.

Mrs Maryon Stewart, aged 31, a nutritionist whose Pre-Menstrual Tension Advisory Service has given postal and telephone advice to 1,600 sufferers during the past eight months, reported yesterday that the first results had been remarkable.

In a test sample of 25 womnn who started the three-month course in September, 21 said that previously severe symptoms such as irritability, depression, headaches and weight gain had practically disappeared. The others said they had benefited from the treatment.

Several woman whose marriages had broken up because of the complaint were reunited with their husbands, Mrs Stewart said. "One husband said he had got back the girl he married."

According to one estimate, five million women in Britain suffer from PMT.

The service, based in Hove, East Sussex, is under the medical guidance of her husband Dr Alan Stewart, a nutritional physician and research officer of the British Society For Nutritional Medicine.

The diet, which hithetrto was practised at only a few clinics in Britain, is tailored to individual needs, but sufferers are usually advised to cut down on tea, coffee, sugar, sweets and salt, to eat more green vegetables and wholefoods and to take supplementary vitamins and minerals.

The diet is based on the belief that PMT is caused by a hormonal imbalance: the oestrogen hormone which builds up in the body at the beginning of the cycle does not sink correctly in the second stage because women lack sufficient Vitamin B to process and eliminate it. With the right diet this can be corrected, the Stewarts say.

Pre-Menstrual Tension Advisory Service, PO Box 268, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1RW.

NHS ban to include anti-smoking gum

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government has listed Nicorette, the anti-smoking chewing gum, as one of the drugs for which the National Health Service will no longer pay from April 1.

Until now, doctors who have prescribed the gum, which costs about £12 for 105 tablets on private prescription, have had their NHS prescriptions challenged, but have been able to appeal to a tribunal to rule that the prescription was justified for a particular patient.

After a number of test cases last October, doctors stood a chance of being able to prescribe the drug on the NHS, usually for patients with smoking related diseases, although no precedent was set.

From April 1, however, they will be barred by regulation from doing so. Allowing the gum to be prescribed freely could cost the health service £20 million a year. At a Department of Health conference on smoking yesterday, Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of State for Health, said the chewing gum had been listed "because we doubt its therapeutic value", and doctors are divided about its effectiveness.

However, talks today on setting up an appeals machinery to allow individual patients to have listed drugs in exceptional cases could provide some latitude. Family doctors' leaders will meet Mr Kenneth Clark, Minister for Health, to put their case.

General practitioners want to be able to prescribe with unusual needs, then justify it later.

BBC condemned as licence monster

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

A former senior BBC executive has criticized the corporation for overmanning and bureaucracy, which had turned it into a "licence-consuming monster".

Mr John Gau, a former head of BBC Current Affairs and now an independent producer, dismissed the argument that a £65 licence fee was "the best bargain in Britain".

Writing in the journal of the Independent Programme Producers' Association, Mr Gau said: "I only hope with their pleas for more they don't bring the whole delicately balanced structure of British broadcasting crashing down around us".

"There is still no reason to suppose you couldn't run a two-channel service for £450 million, provided you organized it on the lines of Channel Four. The BBC's present income, before their claim for an increased licence fee, is £700 million a year for television and radio".

Mr Gau cited the purchase of Elstree studios for £7 million as an example of BBC corporate thinking. The purchase arose from a decision to start a new soap opera, now *EastEnders*.

"There cannot be much change (for Elstree) from £500,000 a year (in continuing costs). So there go 10,000 licence fees already".

Anger over content of 'British' wine

English wine growers claim that inferior wines made from imported grape juice and labelled "British" are giving native vineyards a bad reputation.

And they have launched a campaign to stop what they describe as "a fraudulent and bogus" practice.

Under EEC laws an "English" wine is one made in Britain from grapes grown in Britain. A British wine is one made in Britain from imported grapes, often from outside the European Economic Community.

There are more than 200 commercial vineyards in Britain and production last year topped a record three million bottles.

They are represented by the English Vineyard Association, which has been lobbying the Wine Standards Board, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government to make the change.

Mr David Carr Taylor is the association's vice-chairman, whose 21-acre vineyard in Westfield, Hastings, produced a crop of 186,000 bottles last year.

He said: "I think it is bogus and fraudulent to label and market a product under labels such as "Manor This, or Manor That," and to label it British wine, when it is not.

"It is wrong to label it "British wine", and the EEC agree, because it is not the country of origin.

Two die in love tangle shooting

The bodies of two men involved in a love tangle were found by police yesterday at an isolated bungalow in a Norfolk village after a nine-hour armed siege.

Armed police surrounded the bungalow and set up road blocks in the village of Buxton after Mr Richard Green, aged 28, burst in with a 12-bore automatic shotgun on Monday night.

He confronted his former wife, Mrs Gail Green, aged 27, and a friend of hers, Mr Christopher Adams, who lived with her.

Mrs Green, a former Miss Norwich beauty queen escaped and ran barefoot to a public house, near by and alerted police.

Police moved in at dawn yesterday and found Mr Green, who lived five miles away at Worstead, dead from gunshot wounds in the front garden. The body of Mr Adams, aged 28, was found inside the bungalow, in Brook Street.

It is believed that Mr Green shot Mr Adams shortly after his wife escaped and then turned the gun on himself.

Court told of screams in car park

A witness in the trial of Kenneth Pegg, a magistrate accused of killing his fiancée's lover, told yesterday of screaming and fighting in the car park where Mr Peter Goddard is said to have been stabbed to death.

Mr John Hepplewhite, a travel firm employee, told St Albans Crown Court the attacker put his hand over his victim's mouth and apparently plunged a blade into his back.

Mr Hepplewhite was in a multi-storey car park in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, on August 9 when he heard screaming, but at first he thought it was youngsters carrying on.

Then he saw two men fighting on the ground.

Mr Hepplewhite said he saw the man on top push his right hand into the back of the other. "When he withdrew his hand I saw he was holding a blade and then I saw the blood. When he thrust forward with his right hand he actually placed a hand on the mouth of the person on the ground."

Pegg, aged 36, has denied murdering Mr Goddard with a surgical amputation knife.

£1,000 fine for escape of fumes

A chemical waste disposal company, Re-Chem International, was fined £1,000 yesterday when it admitted that noxious fumes had escaped from its plant at Hythe, near Southampton, affecting employees at an adjoining factory.

Hythe magistrates were told that during the incident on September 17 last year 79 people reported stinging sensations in the eyes and some suffered nasal irritation and sore throats. The company said it had been an isolated incident.

Nurse improves

The father of the Lassa fever victim, Miss Jill Sanderson, who was flown home from Sierra Leone by the RAF, said yesterday he was confident she would make a complete recovery. Mr Philip Sanderson said his daughter, a nurse aged 27, was "steadily improving" in the special isolation unit at Ham Green Hospital, near Bristol.

Forgery trial

Mr Anton Johnson, aged 43, of Eastwood, Essex, a former controlling shareholder of Southend United, was sent for trial by Southend magistrates yesterday on 10 charges of theft, forgery and attempting to pervert the course of justice. He is jointly accused with Mr Michael Anderson, aged 32, a financial consultant, of Southend.

Prize dog stolen

Police are investigating the theft of a £10,000 collie bitch from a dog show at Winthorpe near Newark, Nottinghamshire, at the weekend. Mellodor-Flurry-at-Fulcmoor, a breed winner at Crufts last year, was taken from her handler by a woman claiming to be the owner.

Bath death

Christakis Sofokleous, aged 16 of Highbury, London, who always took a bath when he came home from school, died from carbon monoxide poisoning because a bird's nest blocked a heater flue. An accidental death verdict was recorded yesterday at the St Pancras inquest.

Supporter jailed

A Chelsea football supporter, Paul Fraser, of Belsize Park, north London, who swore at rival Sunderland supporters outside the London ground on March 4, was jailed for seven days at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court

A-test story horrifies Wick

By Ronald Faux

The disclosure that Wick was once proposed as a site for testing a nuclear device broke on that quiet northern community yesterday as little short of a bombshell.

The town owes its prosperity to the nuclear industry and the Dounreay fast reactor site near by is the biggest employer in the region, but the citizens of Wick draw a sharp distinction between nuclear power for war and for peace. There was local amazement at suggestions that the scheme was abandoned only because of Wick's wet weather record.

Mr Bill Mowat, former Provost and chairman of the community council, found it absolutely horrifying, he said, that the thought entered anybody's mind to explode such a device anywhere in the country, least of all in Wick. Little wonder, he said, that people in Caithness got the strong impression that they were regarded south of the border as expendable, second-class citizens. Experience during the past 30 years has made the community strongly in favour of nuclear energy, but bombs were quite another question.

"Siting Dounreay here was a calculated risk: setting off nuclear triggers would have been different altogether. It is to be hoped that the people who handle these things now have a little more intelligence and knowledge about the whole subject.

The Rev Robert Sinclair, aged 89, Free Presbyterian Church minister in Wick, said the proposal was iniquitous. It was quite wrong that any such experiment should have been contemplated without first consulting the local community. "There would have been vigorous opposition," he said.

Mr Morton Smith, regional **councillor and former shop stewards' convener at Dounreay, seemed rather less surprised that Wick was once singled out for such a disservice. "I am in no doubt that Dounreay would have gone to the deep south if there had not been some doubt about the plant's safety. In fact, it has done a good job and people in Caithness are much more worried about their gas ovens blowing up. I doubt they would feel the same way about any kind of nuclear explosion."**

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that the experiment woud not have involved exploding an atom bomb on Wick, although radioactive material would have been released. Several Scottish MPs are to press the Government for more information. Mr Robert MacLennan, MP for Caithness and Sutherland, said the idea would have been thoroughly squashed by the Civil Service or any political leader. It clearly was the jottings of a Dr Strangelove and not a serious proposition, he said. A minority of half-dotty scientists might draw up memoranda about the technical feasibility of doing things, but the whole point of a democracy was to kill off such ideas at birth. It was not at all clear that the idea was treated seriously at the time.

An atomic bomb is made either of plutonium-239 or uranium-235. The explosion occurs when the lump of metal reaches a critical size in which a self-sustaining chain reaction, which is just a rapid process of self-destruction with the release on an immense amount of energy, occurs.

The process is started by neutrons which are being released continually by atoms of the fissile material, but which causes no problem so long as the plutonium or uranium are kept in small subcritical lumps.

The testing of a trigger for an atomic bomb is a trial of the device whereby two subcritical lumps are formed rapidly into one critical mass.

Kremlin sees May as ideal timing for summit

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The new Kremlin leadership is seriously considering a summit between Mr Mikhail Gorbachov and President Reagan in May, according to informed Soviet sources, even though Mr Gorbachov may not become Soviet President until the summer.

Sources said the forthcoming celebrations in East and West marking the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Fascist Germany would be an "ideal opportunity" for a summit.

The sources added that if serious obstacles developed at the Soviet-American arms talks in Geneva over the next month or so a summit meeting could be used to break the deadlock.

Last week Vice-President George Bush conveyed Mr Reagan's proposal for a summit to Mr Gorbachov at the funeral of President Chernenko. Soviet sources reacted positively but coolly at the time, noting that there would first have to be progress at Geneva, and that Mr Gorbachov needed time to consolidate his authority.

Mr Gorbachov succeeded Chernenko as party leader 10 days ago but can be made President or head of state only by the Supreme Soviet (Parliament). Sources said a Central Committee plenum would convene at the end of April, shortly before the plenum would lay the groundwork for Mr Gorbachov's internal reforms and make Politburo changes to bolster his position.

But a supreme Soviet might not be held until June. The Kremlin is obliged by law to give one month's notice of Supreme Soviet sessions. Diplomats noted that it has also taken Andropov and Chernenko several months before they acquired the presidency as well as the party leadership.

Observers said that since Mr Gorbachov was already acknowledged both at home and abroad to be the unchallenged Soviet leader, he could meet Mr Reagan on an equal footing even without being President. Sources noted that Brezhnev had even signed treaties in the 1970s, long before he became head of state in 1977.

Pravda yesterday praised the wartime alliance against Hitler and said it proved how important co-operation was to America and Russia. Forty years of post-war peace had shown that the Soviet Union was ready for peaceful coexistence.

Last week Mr Gorbachov, picking up a theme from the final Chernenko days, said the spirit of the wartime alliance should be revived. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State and Mr Andrei Gromyko the Foreign Minister, are to meet in Vienna in May, but no venue has yet been put forward for a Reagan-Gorbachov encounter.

Other signs of a superpower thaw include Kremlin hints that Cabinet-level trade talks could be reinstituted for the first time since the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

Pravda said yesterday the past 40 years had shown that the West was going up a blind alley by trying to gain superiority over Russia, and urged Washington to show "realism and common sense" over "star wars" space weapons and nuclear missiles issues.

Kremlin sources said Mr Gorbachov wanted to secure peace with the West to concentrate on internal reforms. He is expected to promote such talented economic advisers as Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, who yesterday joined Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Premier, aged 79, in talks with Mr Constantin Dascalescu, the Romanian Prime Minister.

Party officials, however, are waiting to see who Mr Gorbachov will appoint as secretary for agriculture, his former portfolio in the Secretariat and still the Soviet economy's main weak spot.

Kirkpatrick criticizes Soviet expansion

By Our Foreign Staff

Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick yesterday told the 1985 London conference on Communism and Liberal Democracy that "in just 20 years the Soviet Union has gone from being a continental power to being a global power".

Documents from Grenada made "painfully and marvellously clear" the process of "incremental incorporation into the world socialist system". Plans for further Soviet expansion could be seen in "for example Nicaragua's support for the guerrillas in El Salvador", she said.

Mrs Kirkpatrick, America's outgoing United Nations envoy, was one of the leading anti-Communist intellectuals, opinion-makers and political leaders discussing "Beyond 1984".

Lord Chalfont, the chairman, launched proceedings on Monday evening with an outspoken impromptu attack on Sir Geoffrey Howe's speech critical of the strategic defence initiative. He described it as a "sad concoction of out-of-date slogans and misconceptions".

If the Foreign Office believed they could create a role for Britain as "honest broker" between the United States and the Soviet Union, this would go down as "one of the most appalling foreign policy blunders of recent years".

Mr Vladimir Bukovsky yesterday attacked Western illusions about the new Soviet leader. He hesitated to turn on his radio or television for fear of hearing more naive effusions about the "young" and "charismatic" Mr Gorbachov.

Failed jail break linked with guards

From Diana Geddes
Paris

A prison deputy governor and a prison guard, both trainees, are said to have confessed to being the accomplices of Bruno Sulak, one of France's most daring jewellery thieves, in his unsuccessful attempt to escape from Fleury-Merogis Prison, near Paris.

They are said to have been promised 4 million francs (£350,000) for providing Sulak with the explosives, smoke bombs, "walkie-talkie" radio.

But Sulak encountered an unexpectedly locked door in the prison's administrative building. Hiding in a cupboard he called up his alleged accomplice, the deputy governor.

However, two prison guards on their rounds heard his voice coming from the cupboard. Sulak, a former French Legionnaire, who had made two previously successful prison escapes made a daring leap through a second-floor window on to a concrete prison courtyard 26 feet below.

Thierry Sniter, deputy governor of Fleury-Mérogis Prison, and Marc Metge, one of the guards, are expected to be charged with aiding and abetting Sulak in his escape attempt.

California drugs ring smashed

San Diego (Reuter) - A drug ring responsible for smuggling more than 60 tons of cocaine a year from South America has been smashed, federal authorities said yesterday.

Mr Peter Nunez a prosecuting attorney, said 81 people had been indicted or named in criminal complaints.

At a news conference with representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Customs Service and other federal agencies, Mr Nunez said most of the suspects were arrested over the weekend in places ranging from San Diego to Miami.

The indictment alleges that the cocaine-smuggling cartel operated out of Peru and Colombia and was headed by Augustin Fernando Maurtua of California and José Antonio Ledgard of Florida. Both are in custody.

● BOGOTA: Drug traffickers facing a government crackdown in Colombia have shot down an Air Force Cessna, killing the pilot, defence ministry sources said (Reuter reports).

The aircraft was shot down over the mountainous north-western province of Antioquia.

Action urged on human rights abuse

From Our Correspondent, Vienna

On the opening day here of the first European ministerial conference on human rights, 18 of the 21 ministers attending signed a declaration calling for swifter measures for dealing with human rights abuse.

Malta, Turkey and Cyprus expressed reservations on the issue and did not sign.

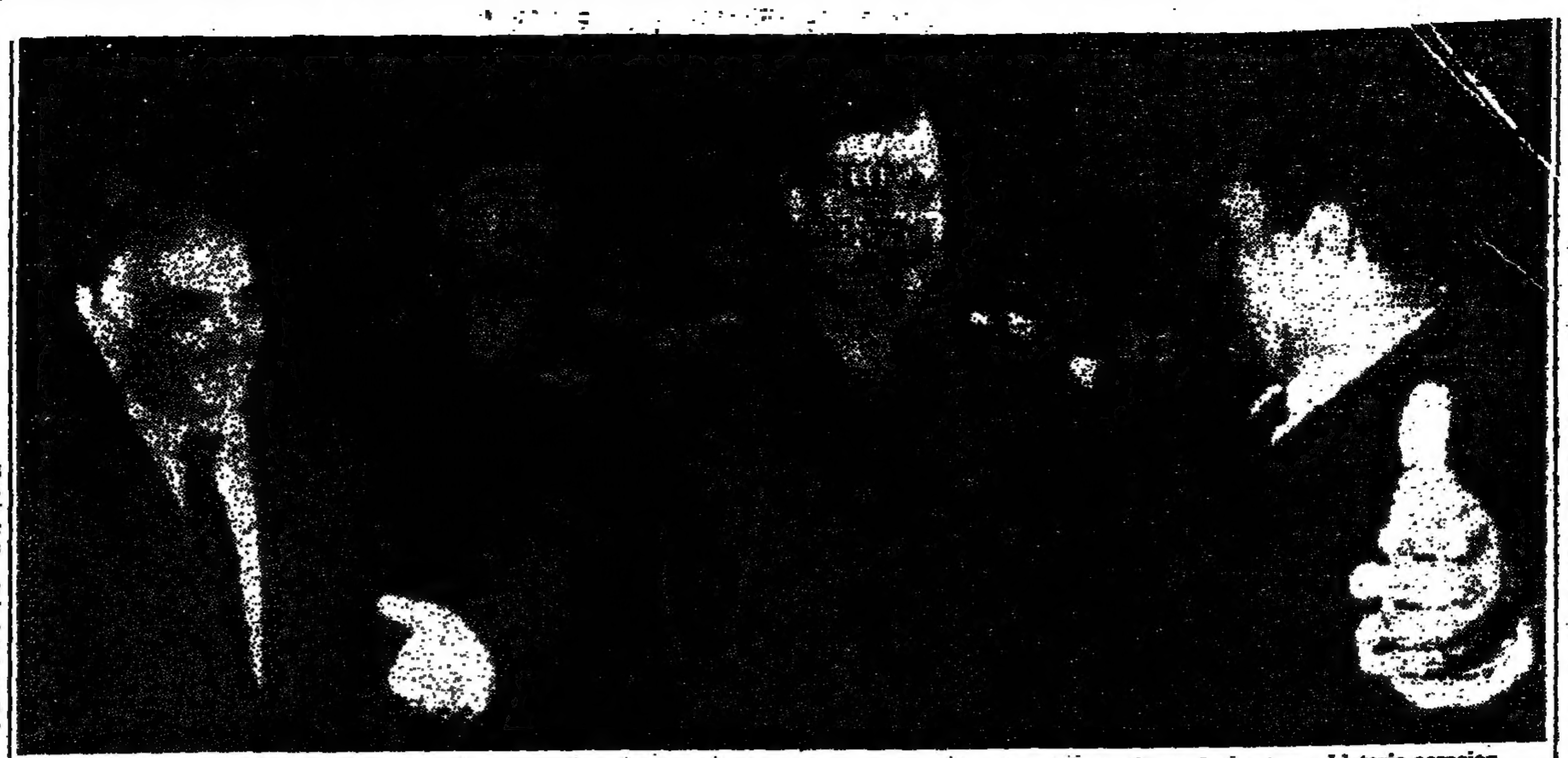
A separate call for an investigative body in each member state of the Council of Europe to deal with allegations of torture, was made in papers presented by the Swiss and Austrian ministers.

Herr Rudolf Kirchschläger, the Austrian President, praised the Council's pioneering role in championing human rights.

Señor Marcelino Oreja, the Council's Secretary-General underlined their belief that the protection of human rights was "the cornerstone of Western democracy."

But Señor Oreja warned that Europe has seen "the re-emergence in the odious shape of racism and xenophobia of a past which we thought vanished."

The papers most likely to arouse interest will be those of the French and British ministers who will today speak on the challenge to human rights posed by the development of technology and science. This is expected to deal with the question of genetic manipulation.



Warm welcome: President Saddam, centre, about to embrace President Mubarak, with King Husain a smiling witness to an historic occasion.

Mubarak and Husain mend some Arab fences

From Alice Brinton
Cario

President Mubarak's sudden decision to visit Baghdad while on a visit to Amman on Monday, has not surprised officials in Cairo.

Both Egypt and Jordan are naturally anxious to assess for themselves Iraq's position in the escalating Gulf War. Jordan shares a common border with Iraq, while Egypt is a major supplier of arms to that country, with sales last year amounting to about $1 billion.

Although relations between Baghdad and Cairo have been steadily improving since the Egyptian - Israeli peace treaty of 1979 led Iraq to break with Egypt, President Mubarak's visit is the first by an Egyptian president since then. It has naturally led to some speculation of a resumption of diplomatic relations.

However, on his return from Baghdad, Mr Mubarak dodged that issue by saying that he did not pay much attention to formalities and had gone to Baghdad as a gesture of friendship in the light of recent developments in the Gulf War. He said that Iraq did not need any further military assistance and called on Iran to seek peace with Iraq and put an end to the bloodshed.

Diplomatic recognition by Iraq would without doubt give Egypt an important psychological boost in its relations with other Arab countries, especially when Mr Mubarak is doing all he can to reactivate the Middle East peace negotiations.

His recent visit to Washington and his proposal to President Reagan that the US open a dialogue with a joint Jordanian - Palestine Liberation Organization delegation, met a cool reception. Both US and Israel refuse to talk to the PLO unless it first recognizes Israel's existence.

President Mubarak went to Amman on Monday to brief King Husain on his Washington talks and to discuss, no doubt, what to do next.

Marshlands littered with bodies

Al-Uzayr, southern Iraq (Reuter) - Hundreds of Iranian corpses litter the marshlands around this southern Iraqi town after seven days of fierce fighting in which Iraq says it crushed an Iranian advance to the river Tigris.

Baghdad-based correspondents toured the battlefield on Monday for the first time since Iran launched its offensive on March 11. They were driven about 12 miles east, almost to the Iranian border.

We were taken 25 miles north and south through marshes cleared of Iranian troops and saw hundreds of Iranian bodies in foxholes and trenches on both sides of the river, many with rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers still at their sides.

Missile batteries around al-Uzayr, on the vital Baghdad to Basra highway between al-Amarah and al-Qurnah, fired on Iranian lines now said by Iraq to be some 25 miles away.

Iraqi commanders said eight divisions of Iranian regular army troops and revolutionary guards were poured into the al Hawizah marshes, apparently trying to reach the Tigris and cut the main road to Basra, Iraq's second biggest city.

Advance units at one stage managed to cross the Tigris, throwing pontoon bridges across the river and taking up positions on its west bank, threatening the highway.

However, the bridges were destroyed by Iraqi helicopter gunships and the enemy troops encircled and destroyed, Major-General Sultan Hashem, commander of the east Tigris forces, said at his battlefield headquarters.

Iranian forces knocked out dozens of Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers, still strewn around the battleground before the counter-attack by crack Iraqi reinforcements from special forces and the presidential guard.

More than 50 Iraqi tanks were still rumbling over marshland roads, many firing east towards the Iranian lines.

An Iraqi High Command communique on Monday described the fighting as the fiercest of the war, now in its fifth year.

General Hashem said the Iranians had lost tens of thousands of men. Asked about Iraqi casualties, he replied: "One Iraqi to every 100 Iranian soldier now exists in the marshlands they invaded last week."

The Defence Minister, Mr Adnan Kheirullah, who commanded Iraqi troops at the front, said they had "fought for several days and nights without a break, inch by inch, trench by trench, from one position to another."

As the correspondents toured the marshes, dotted with unexploded RPG's hand grenades and machine-gun ammunition, the stench of decaying corpses pervaded the air.

A marshland fishing village was deserted apart from a few cattle left behind by residents fleeing the Iranian advance.

General Hashem said there had been no fresh fighting in the Majnoon Islands.

Iraq claims a big victory as peace efforts mount

Bahrain (Reuter/AFP) - Iraq appeared to have repulsed a large scale Iranian offensive on the southern Gulf war front as international efforts mounted yesterday to end the 53-month conflict.

Iran said it had hit Baghdad with its fourth missile fired on the city in six days. In Tehran, Iranians and foreigners scrambled for plane seats out of the country hours before an Iraqi deadline after which Iranian air space will be declared a war zone. About 1,300 foreigners left on the last flights out.

In Riyadh, foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council yesterday ended a two-day meeting with a pledge of support for Iraq.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, said he would fly to Baghdad to discuss ways to halt the war. He was prepared to go to Tehran if Iran showed readiness to end the conflict.

The Gulf Arab states urged Iran "to respond to international efforts to end the conflict and respect its border with Iraq".

President Ali Khamenei of Iran welcomed efforts to halt attacks on civilian areas.

President Dawda Jawara of Gambia, head of an Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) peace committee, is due to discuss the war at the ICO headquarters in Jeddah on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Iran said it fired its fourth missile in six days at Baghdad yesterday in retaliation for Iraqi raids on Iranian cities.

● BRUTAL BATTLE: Last week's brutal fighting in the marshlands of southern Iraq has ended and as Iraq has been the first to take reporters to the battlefield one can only assume that its forces have won (Henry Stanhope writes).

But as both sides resumed their more normal pattern of air raids and missile attacks against civil as well as military targets yesterday there was little optimism over the end to the conflict.

Iran has already announced an end to the offensive in which it launched a force estimated at up to eight divisions or division equivalents, across the al-Hawizah marshes in pursuit of its old objective - the north-south highway linking Baghdad with Iraq's second city, Basra.

It reportedly tried to cut the Iraqi thick red line at a point where the third and fourth corps joined - much as an Israeli task force under General Sharon punched a hole between the Egyptian second and third armies on the east bank of the Suez canal in 1973.

This time it was Shia fanaticism rather than Israeli dash and "chutzpah" which drove the troops forward, towards Iraq defences hugely fortified by Soviet arms shipments in the last two years.

Iran lacks the strength and logistic depth to break through towards a strategic objective of the kind which might topple Saddam Hussein.

Ershad confident of poll 'Yes'

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

Bangladesh goes to the polls tomorrow in a referendum the result of which everyone cynically regards as a foregone conclusion. The result, people say, will be that around 60 per cent of the electorate will be said to have turned up, and that somewhere between 80 and 90 per cent of them will be said to have voted "Yes".

"Yes" in this case means 'Yes, we approve of the innovations introduced by the martial law regime since it seized power three years ago', and 'Yes, we want Lieutenant General Husain Muhammad Ershad, the Chief Martial Law Administrator, to continue in office as President until general elections can be held'.

In fact, since the people of the Indian sub-continent basically like elections, the chances are that around 40 per cent of the electorate will actually turn out, and the chances also are that since they have bothered to come they will vote for the General. After all, if you wanted to show your disapproval you probably would simply not show up.

General Ershad sees it a little differently. "There will not be any shortage of voting," he told me at the presidential palace, Bangabhaban, yesterday. "The whole country is full of enthusiasm for casting their vote. They understand." He added darkly, "what will happen if the previous instability will continue."

More realistically the President, elegant in a beige safari suit with knife-edge creases, suggested that 60 per cent of the total electorate was a usual figure for an election turnout.

General Ershad: 'Country full of enthusiasm'

There are nearly 49 million registered voters in this densely-packed, though soggy country. They will not make any mark on their ballot paper. All they have to do is place it in a box with the General's picture on if they want to vote "Yes", or in an unmarked box if they want to say "No".

Cynics say that it will not be hard for a loyally-inclined election supervisor to make sure that the ballots in the "No" box somehow get transferred to the "Yes" box before counting.

The General addressed around 5,000 civil servants yesterday in the Dhaka secretariat complex. Under a green and white canopy he told them that he was intending elections before the political opposition thought to ask for them. "I started taking measures, step by step, for the restoration of democracy," he said, "including a series of dialogues with the political parties. All their demands were met. But they did not participate."

He accuses the politicians of irresponsibility and of incitement to violence. He told me: "People are angry now. They want to live in peace."

The General has considerably relaxed martial law regulations. He has disbanded the courts, eased up on censorship, allowed political activity. But if they weren't going to come to his elections he said, then he was going to have to legitimize his rule another way - via the referendum.

Accordingly he has detained the leaders of the two principal opposition groups, Begum Khalida Zia, widow of a previous President, and Shaikh Hasina Wazed, daughter of the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh, in house arrest.

The leader of a third grouping, a fundamentalist movement, is also detained. Several hundred of the stong-armed men, beloved by political parties at election time, have also been locked away in various of the country's jails.

Britain opposes EEC conference on unity

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Britain, Denmark and Greece have joined forces to block a scheme by the other EEC countries to call an intergovernmental conference to bring about "European union". At the same time Britain is backing other ideas to improve European unity.

The scheme in the interim report of the special committee set up by last June's European summit to study ways of bringing the Community out of what is described as "a state of crisis". The report has been drawn up for preliminary discussion by the Brussels summit at the end of this month.

Denmark and Greece have lodged general reserves on the whole exercise, while Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Office Minister of State, has confined his criticisms to the sections dealing with majority voting in council meetings, increasing the powers of the Parliament and calling the intergovernmental conference.

Under the scheme preferred by the seven other countries, the European Parliament would be required to vote on all proposals from the European Commission and then the text approved by Euro-MPs.

Inside the council itself, seven countries want to see that majority rules with decisions being taken by a vote save in "exceptional cases". Mr Rifkind argued that there should always be a search for consensus.

Britain does support opening up the internal market of the Community.

Alfonsin and Reagan discuss $45bn debt

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

President Raúl Alfonsín of Argentina, who is on a three-day state visit to the United States, conferred with President Reagan yesterday on Argentina's staggering $45 billion foreign debt. Inflation in the past 12 months exceeded 700 per cent.

Señor Alfonsín is being given red carpet treatment, despite strong differences over the US's bellicose policies in Central America. Administration officials said the US wanted to emphasize the importance attached to Argentina's return to democracy. He will address a joint session of Congress today.

Other topics discussed at the White House included Argentina's claim to the Falkland islands.

Muslims flee as war grips Sidon

From Robert Fisk
Sidon

Under mortar fire from pro-Israel Phalangist militiamen and complaining that they had not even been supplied with enough heavy weapons to beat back their enemies, Lebanese government troops dug in behind sandbagged positions across Sidon yesterday as a Christian-Muslim civil war front line emerged to divide the ancient biblical city.

Dozens of Muslims began to flee their homes in the Phalangist-controlled Abra suburbs in scenes tragically similar to those which tore Beirut apart in civil conflict 10 years ago.

Muslim politicians and Lebanese Army officers in Sidon all blamed Israel for the fighting, saying that the mutiny within the Phalange militia in Beirut had been organized by the Israelis and that the Phalangists east of Sidon had been induced to turn their guns against the legitimate national army.

According to one army Lieutenant near the Awali river, militiamen of Israel's proxy "south Lebanon army" had arrived in Abra from their forward positions in Kfar Falous, on the road to Jezzine, to join the Phalangists in fighting the Lebanese soldiers.

Israel had predicted before its withdrawal from Sidon on February 16 that there would be a bloodbath in the city and that the Lebanese Army would be unable to maintain control there.

Certainly, Sunni Muslim militiamen were firing at the Christians from alongside army troops yesterday, equally certainly, the mortars and shells fired at the Lebanese Army had been supplied to the Christian militias by the Israeli Army. Neither the Israelis nor the Phalangists have ever made any secret of how the Christian militias receive their weapons.

More than a hundred Muslims left their homes in Abra yesterday morning under the protection of the Lebanese Red Cross as mortar and shellfire hissed over the Jezzine road just east of the city centre.

Israeli-backed militiamen forced children to stand in front of their gun position as a shield after a shootout with Irish troops in a Shia Muslim village south Lebanon, UN officials and diplomatic sources said. The militia action followed a shootout the night before between Irish soldiers and the militia, whose military activities are limited by the Irish checkpoints.

Amal militiamen were later seen kidnapping Christians in Sidon, allegedly in retaliation for the robbing of Muslim homes and for abductions by Phalangists in Abra. "I left my home with my family," one Muslim businessman said yesterday. "How can I ever go back there and live with those people again? But I tell you this it is Israel's doing. They made the Phalangists do this. They want to make us look like animals and say that they were policemen here keeping the peace."

If Muslim anger is considerable, the performance of the Lebanese Army has in some cases been lamentable. At one point yesterday, two Lebanese soldiers atop an armoured troop carrier were vainly trying to fire their machine gun while Amal Shia Muslim militiamen handed them a series of screwdrivers. The usual gunner had been killed in fighting on Monday and no one else had been trained to fire the weapon.

Among those forced to flee their homes was the family of Mr Ahmed Mantash and his wife, in whose house *The Times* correspondent lived before the Israeli withdrawal last month.

US actor faces rape charge

Los Angeles, (Reuter) - Jim Brown, the former American footballer turned actor whose films include *The Dirty Dozen* and *Ice Station Zebra*, is to be charged with rape, sexual battery and assault, a court official said.

Mr Brown, aged 49, and a friend, Carol Moses, aged 22, were arrested on February 20 after a 33-year-old woman filed a complaint against them. Mr Brown is due to appear in court tomorrow.

Murdoch pledge to Chinese

Peking - Mr Rupert Murdoch, publisher of *The Times*, has told the Chinese Vice-Premier, Mr Yao Yilin, that he will try his best to make co-operation between Chinese and Australian television "fruitful".

Mr Murdoch, who is visiting China for the first time, met Mr Yao on Monday at the Great Hall of the People.

Treholt ill

Olso (Reuter) - Arne Treholt, the former Norwegian diplomat charged with spying for the Russians, has complained of stomach pains after eating chocolates sent to him in prison, police said.

4 die in riots

Delhi (Reuter) - Troops yesterday moved into the Gujarat state capital, Ahmedabad, after four people were killed in riots over the reservation of university places and jobs for underprivileged groups.

Urgent food

Rome (AP) - Emergency food aid totalling about £38 million is going to eight drought-stricken countries in Africa and to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said yesterday.

Foul play

Moscow (Reuter) - Volga, a Gorky-based second division football team, has been disbanded after the discovery that its trainers took monthly bribes from young players hoping to secure their places on the team.

Moi assures press but gives it a warning

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Kenya's constitutional guarantee of a free press remained "firm and unshakeable", President Moi said yesterday as he was speaking at celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the *Nation* newspapers - now the largest-selling in East Africa - which were founded by the Aga Khan.

The Aga Khan, still the controlling shareholder, and the former United Nations Secretary-General, Dr Kurt Waldheim, were at the ceremony.

Although he supported the principle of press freedom, President Moi said the press must not portray "undesirable weaknesses" in a destructive manner.

Dr Waldheim expressed regret that the developed world continued to spend more on arms than trying to overcome the disasters affecting the Third World.

"Peace is not only threatened by massive arms build-ups. Poverty, hunger and social inequality are also causes of violence . . . it is the moral obligation of the richer countries to help the poorer nations."

Dr Waldheim supported moves for a new world information order, and said a compromise must be found to differences on the subject between the West and the developing world.

In his speech, the Aga Khan paid tribute to the Kenyan Government's acceptance of the role of modern newspapers in the country's progress.

Britons in Lagos court

Two British engineers, Mr Kenneth Clark and Mr Angus Paterson, appeared in court in Lagos yesterday charged with conspiracy to steal an aircraft and stealing an aircraft (the Press Association reports).

According to reports reaching London, their case was adjourned until April 24. The judge ordered that they should have access to defence counsel before the next hearing.

Britain has protested to Nigeria about the conditions under which the two, both from Aberdeen, are being held in jail.

INCOME TAX

Basic personal allowances raised by twice inflation rate

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor's income tax cuts were selective and less generous than had been generally expected. However, by combining them with changes in national insurance contributions to benefit the lower paid, he had attempted to maximize the impact of his tax changes upon unemployment.

Basic personal allowances are raised by around 10 per cent, twice the amount needed to compensate for inflation. The single person's allowance increases from £2,005 to £2,205, a 10 per cent rise. The change is worth £1.15 a week to a single person.

The married man's allowance rises by 9.5 per cent, from £3,155 to £3,455, a £300 change. That is worth £1.73 a week, to a married couple.

Also increased by more than inflation are the additional personal allowance and widow's bereavement allowance, up £100 to £1,250, a rise of 8.7 per cent.

The age allowance goes up by £200 (£2,490 to £2,690) for single people; £300 (3,955 to £4,255) for married couples.

Higher up the income scale, the Chancellor has deliberately not provided additional tax cuts to those implied by the changes in basic allowances.

The higher rate thresholds all rise by around 5.5 per cent, with the threshold for 40 per cent income tax increasing from £15,401 to £16,201. The top rate band will begin at £40,200, compared with a current threshold of £38,100.

The Chancellor's income tax measures are estimated to reduce the number of people paying income tax by 800,000 in 1985/86, compared with the situation if allowances had not been raised at all, and 375,000 if they had only been indexed.

The overall cost of raising thresholds is £1,590 million in 1985/86, and £2,025 million in a full year.

The cost over and above that implied by indexation is £730 million in 1985/86, £910 million in a full year.

The Government's emphasis in recent years has been on cutting income tax through raising thresholds by more than inflation.

This tax route was adopted after Sir Geoffrey Howe's first Budget, in June 1979, which concentrated on cutting income tax rates. The basic rate was then cut from 33 to 30 per cent, and the higher rates reduced, with the top rate cut from 83 to 60 per cent.

Since then, apart from in the austerity Budget of 1981, when income tax thresholds and allowances were not raised even in line with inflation, the focus has shifted from rates to thresholds and allowances.

The Government's 1978 target of reducing the basic rate of income tax to 25 per cent has apparently been abandoned. It has been calculated that, even before yesterday's measures, the Government could have got the basic rate down to 27.5 per cent by concentrating on rates rather than thresholds and allowances.

Apart from "taking people out of tax" by raising thresholds and allowances, the Treasury has been playing close attention to the allowances themselves. In the current financial year there are no fewer than 56 allowances which can be set against income tax, some of which have a negligible revenue effect but pose administrative difficulties.

A debate has been running among economists and tax specialists on, firstly, the desirability of changes in thresholds rather than rates and, secondly, on the impact, particularly on unemployment, of income tax cuts against other forms of fiscal stimulus.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has said that raising thresholds and allowances is a poor way to tackle either the poverty trap or the unemployment trap and that cuts in rates would be better.

The poverty trap exists where heads of low income households face punishingly high marginal rates of tax and benefit loss, sometimes combining to produce an effective marginal tax rate of over 100 per cent. Raising thresholds is unlikely to take such people out of tax, the IFS says, and would therefore have little impact on the poverty trap.

The unemployment trap is similar but affects unemployed people who are dissuaded from taking a low-paid job because they are better off on benefits. The problem is most acute, again, for heads of low income households who would not be helped greatly by changes in thresholds and allowances.

In addition, economists are sceptical about the effects of income tax cuts on unemployment. The Government has emphasized the supply-side or incentive effects of tax cuts.

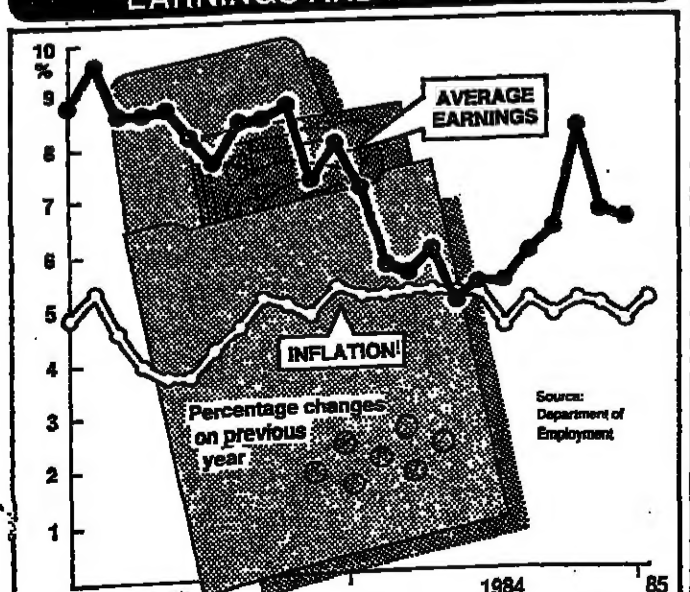
However, these are difficult to pick up and economists from five organizations – the Henley Centre, London Business School, Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates, City University Business School and Simon & Coates – concluded that income tax cuts ran a poor third to public spending and national insurance changes in generating jobs.

As well as announcing changes in allowances and thresholds for next year, the Chancellor promised a green paper on personal tax reform.

That will be published later in the year, and the key emphasis is likely to be upon the separate taxation of husbands and wives, the advantages of which Mr Nigel Lawson outlined in his speech.

The scheme Mr Lawson envisaged would allow the full transfer of unused allownances to the partner. That change is not envisaged until 1990.

EARNINGS AND INFLATION



Food for thought: Mr Nigel Lawson, and his wife Teresa watching their children, Tom, aged eight, and Emily, aged three, feeding geese during the Chancellor's traditional pre-Budget walk in St James's Park, yesterday. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

PERSONAL TAX ALLOWANCES

	1984-85	1985-86
	£	£
Single person	2,005	2,205
Married man	3,155	3,455
Wife's earned income allowance	2,005*	2,205
Additional personal allowance (single parents)	1,150	1,250
Dependant relative	100	100
Blind persons allowance		
single person	360	360
couple (both blind)	720	720
Age allowance (age 65 or over)		
single	2,490	2,690
married	3,955	4,255

*this is the maximum.
Age allowance is reduced down to personal allowance levels by £2 for every £3 of excess income over £8,100 in 1984-85. £8,800 in 1985-86.

MARRIED COUPLE, NONWORKING WIFE £20,000 MORTGAGE

	£12,000		£17,000		£25,000	
Annual income	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME	12,000	12,000	17,000	17,000	25,000	25,000
Less tax allowances	3,155	3,455	3,155	3,455	3,155	3,455
Mortgage interest relief*	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
Taxable income	6,245	5,945	11,245	10,945	19,245	18,945
Tax payable	1,873	1,783	3,373	3,283	6,210	5,958
N.I. contributions	1,080	1,080	1,170	1,240	1,170	1,240
TOTAL NET INCOME	9,047	9,137	12,457	12,477	17,620	17,802

*Mortgage interest is calculated at 13.00 per cent

SINGLE PERSON, £10,000 MORTGAGE

	£6,000		£10,000		£15,000	
Annual income	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME	6,000	6,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000
Less tax allowance	2,005	2,205	2,005	2,205	2,005	2,205
Mortgage interest relief*	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
Taxable income	2,695	2,495	6,695	6,495	11,695	11,495
Tax payable	808	748	2,008	1,948	3,508	3,448
N.I. contributions	540	540	900	900	1,170	1,240
TOTAL NET INCOME	4,652	4,712	7,092	7,152	10,322	10,312

*Mortgage interest calculated at 13.00 per cent

COUPLE OVER 65, NO MORTGAGE

	£7,500		£10,000		£15,000	
Annual income	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME	7,500	7,500	10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000
Less Age allowance*	3,955	4,255	3,155	3,455	3,155	3,455
Taxable income	3,545	3,245	6,845	6,545	11,845	11,545
Tax payable	1,063	973	2,053	1,963	3,553	3,463
TOTAL NET INCOME	6,437	6,527	7,947	8,037	11,447	11,537

*This is reduced by £2 for every £3 of income over £8,100 (1984-85) £8,800 (1985-86) down to married man's relief level.

SINGLE PARENT WITH THREE CHILDREN, £10,000 MORTGAGE

	£6,000		£7,500		£10,000	
Annual income	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME	6,000	6,000	7,500	7,500	10,000	10,000
Less tax allowance	3,155	3,455	3,155	3,455	3,155	3,455
Mortgage interest relief	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
Taxable income*	1,545	1,245	3,045	2,745	5,545	5,245
Tax payable	463	373	913	823	1,663	1,573
N.I. contributions*	540	540	675	675	900	900
NET INCOME	4,997	5,087	5,912	6,002	7,437	7,527
Plus child benefit	1,248	1,289	1,248	1,289	1,248	1,289
TOTAL NET INCOME	6,245	6,376	7,160	7,291	8,685	8,816

*These figures could be lower/higher if part of the income is maintenance payments. Mortgage interest calculated at 13 per cent

MARRIED COUPLE, WORKING WIFE, 2 CHILDREN, £25,000 MORTGAGE

	£14,000		£17,000		£20,000	
Annual income	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME	14,000	14,000	17,000	17,000	20,000	20,000
Less tax allowances	5,160	5,660	5,160	5,660	5,160	5,660
Mortgage interest relief*	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250
Taxable income	5,590	5,090	8,590	8,090	11,590	11,090
Tax payable	1,677	1,527	2,577	2,427	3,477	3,327
N.I. contributions†	1,260	1,260	1,530	1,530	1,800	1,800
TOTAL NET INCOME	11,063	11,213	12,893	13,043	14,723	14,873
Plus child benefit	689	712	689	712	689	712
TOTAL NET INCOME	11,752	11,925	13,582	13,755	15,412	15,585

*Mortgage interest calculated at 13 per cent. †These figures could be lower, depending on the level of the wife's earnings and whether she pays full N.I. contributions.

PERSONAL ALLOWANCES

Spouses must wait for Green Paper to see radical reform

By Lorna Bourke

In an unexciting package of personal tax changes the campaigners for reform of the taxation between husband and wife were disappointed to learn that nothing is to be done in the immediate future to rectify this source of aggravation.

Radical changes are to be deferred once again until publication of a Green Paper later in the year and implementation is not likely much before the end of the decade when computerization of PAYE will be completed.

This will be the second Green Paper on the subject following the 1980 version which proposed a number of options – none of which have so far been implemented.

The new Green Paper will be more wide ranging looking beyond the husband/wife relationship, towards integration of the social security benefits system with taxation – the old tax credits system first proposed by a Conservative government in the early 1970s.

The Chancellor said that there was a strong case for changing to a new system under which everybody, male of female, married or single, would have the same tax allowance.

Where one partner in a married couple did not have enough income to make full use of his or her allowance, he or she would be able if they wished to transfer the unused allowance to their partner.

The Chancellor said that the Green Paper would consider in detail the disaggregation of a wife's investment income from that of her husband.

Under the present system although a married woman can opt for separate taxation, her investment income is always treated as though it was her husband's income.

The Chancellor indicated that he wanted reforms which would benefit the family with a non-working wife, who stayed at home to care for children.

His failure to make any reforms in this Budget will be a big disappointment to the child poverty lobby who had hoped that there would be some curtailment of married man's allowance in favour of higher child benefit.

The Chancellor is keen to introduce a much fairer system of taxation. Under the present structure of personal allowances, a married man gets an allowance which is about one and a half times the size of the single person's allowance. A married woman has an allowance equal to the single person's allowance which she can set only against her earned income.

In the case of a widow living off investment income, the present system makes it very disadvantageous for her to remarry since she will then have no personal allowance which can be offset against her investment income.

The Chancellor said he was keen to reduce the burden of taxation as much as possible but that it is vital that the resources available are put to the most effective use.

He said that what was needed was a tax system more suited to the economic and social needs of today.

SINGLE PERSONS – INCOME ALL EARNED – ANNUAL FIGURES

	Charge for 1984-85		Proposed charge for 1985-86		Reduction in tax after proposed change	
Income	Income tax	Percentage of total income taken in tax	Income tax	Percentage of total income taken in tax	Income tax	As percentage of total income
£	£	%	£	%	£	%
2,500	148	5.9	88	3.5	60	2.4
3,000	298	10.0	238	8.0	60	2.4
4,000	598	15.0	538	13.5	60	1.5
5,000	898	18.0	838	16.8	60	1.2
6,000	1,198	20.0	1,138	19.0	60	1.0
7,000	1,498	21.4	1,438	20.6	60	0.9
8,000	1,798	22.5	1,738	21.7	60	0.8
9,000	2,098	23.3	2,038	22.7	60	0.7
10,000	2,398	24.0	2,338	23.4	60	0.6
12,000	2,998	25.0	2,938	24.5	60	0.5
14,000	3,598	25.7	3,538	25.3	60	0.4
16,000	4,198	26.2	4,138	25.9	60	0.4
18,000	4,858	27.0	4,738	26.3	119	0.7
20,000	5,658	28.3	5,498	27.5	160	0.8
25,000	7,898	31.6	7,678	30.7	220	0.9
30,000	10,392	34.6	10,097	33.7	295	1.0
40,000	15,762	39.4	15,372	38.4	390	1.0
50,000	21,757	43.5	21,252	42.5	505	1.0

PIT STRIKE

Final cost to country put at £2,500m

By Jonathan Davis
Business Correspondent

The Government's first official estimate of the final cost of the miner's strike came from the Chancellor yesterday. He put the figure at £2,500 million in extra public spending, as well as a £4,000 million addition to the balance of payments and a cut in economic growth of one per cent.

The £2,500 million estimate is £1,000 million higher than any previous official Treasury estimate, and brings the Government closer into line with the estimates of most City economists. Until yesterday, the Government had insisted on making all its estimates of the cost on the assumption that the strike would have fnished by Christmas.

Mr Lawson made it clear in his speech that there would be further public expenditure costs in the coming financial year, but repeated his view that the costs of giving in to the National Union of Mineworkers would have been even higher. The effect on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement was even higher than the immediate impact on public spending. The PSBR was about £2,750 million more than the previous estimate in the 1984/5 year at £10,500 million, the Treasury estimated.

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, also gave estimates yesterday of the impact of the coal strike on the finance of the National Coal Board. Preliminary estimates from the board were that its deficit on revenue account in the current year is likely to at least £1,850 million, with further losses next year, he said, the board will overshoot its external financing limit by more than £700 million.

Mr Walker confirmed that the Government will introduce a new Bill soon allowing further payments of deicit grants to the board. The Bill is necessary because the cost of the strike has already exceeded that laid down in coal industry legislation.

The cost of the strike pushed up the Government's public spending this financial year as a percentage of gross national product, in contrast to the Government's policy of trying to reduce the proportion. The Treasury's estimates of the impact on economic performance last year excluded knock-on effects such as those on firms who lost business as a result of miners' losing spending power.

The strike cut the coal industry's output by half, last year, the Treasury said, and also incurred extra costs for the electricity industry, which burned large volumes of oil in its power stations to keep the national grid supplied. No breakdown of the costs of the strike were given yesterday however. Mr Lawson said he is expecting the end of the coal strike to add about three quarters of a percent to output this year.

SECURITY LAPSE

'Jokers' walk into chamber

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

An amazing Budget day breach of security enabled a pair of "jokers" to penetrate the private confines of the Commons yesterday and get within a stone's throw of the Chancellor and virtually the entire Cabinet.

The two men walked in off the street, shrugged off supposedly tight police checks and wandered down stairs and corridors blocked off to the public before strolling into the press gallery just after Mr Nigel Lawson had started presenting his budget to a packed chamber.

They were finally stopped by a gallery attendant, Mr George Carey, aged 62, but still tried to carry on their bluff by pretending they had been invited by a newspaper.

Mr John Roberts, aged 42, of Egerton Terrace, Chelsea, London, and Mr Timothy Milner, aged 28, of Cholmley Gardens, West Hampstead, London, were just about to leave the Commons when they were stopped by the police, who had been alerted by *The Times*.

The security breach comes just two weeks after a special review in the press gallery area and there was a general tightening up in the wake of the Brighton bombing, but last night, after three hours of questioning, the pair left Westminster and said: "We did it for a dare."

SHARE OPTION SCHEMES

Sale after five years to be tax free

By Ian Griffiths

The Chancellor has relaxed the rules relating to share option schemes. In future, employees will be able to sell shares acquired under such schemes after five years without attracting income tax.

Under the old rules, the shares had to be held for at least seven years before the proceeds from sales were free of tax.

The relaxation will extend to all shares allocations under an approved scheme, so that existing and new participants will benefit.

There will be no change in the arrangements for share disposals which take place earlier than the new five year release date. Shares will still have to be held in trust for an initial two year period. Sales of shares thereafter will attract income tax on a percentage of their value. Sales in three years or four attract income tax on 100 per cent of either the value of the shares when allocated or the proceeds of the sales, whichever is the smaller amount. Sales in year five attract income tax of 75 per cent of that value.

Employees leaving a company before the new release date as a result of injury, retirement or disability will remain eligible for the special 50 per cent abatement charge.

STAMP DUTY

Abolition of 15 separate levies simplifies tax at cost of £14m

By Alison Eadie

Stamp duty, one of the country's oldest taxes, has been simplified and modernized with the abolitin of 15 duties.

The most important of them is 1 per cent gift duty which will bring in the Chancellor £10 million this year. It was payable on any gift transferred by document, as it is on documents that stamp duty is payable.

Contract note duty which brings in £4 million and is payable on sales and purchases of shares, gilts and loan stock will also be abolished. The duty was: 10p on deals up to £500, 30p on deals between £500 and £1,500 a 60p on deals of more than £1,500.

The other duties, ranging from 5p duty on agreements pursuant to the Highways Act to 50p duty on powers of attorney, bring in so little money that the Inland Revenue has not quantified the loss.

Although the revenue loss is small – £14 million out of a total estimated trawl of £860 million this fiscal year – there will be a significant 40 per cent reduction in the number of documents liable to stamp duty. The savings in official time and effort will therefore be marked.

Also exempted from stamp duty will be the transfer of a propoerty on the break-up of a marriage. Such a transfer has been lible in some cases to 1 per cent sale duty, but will now be liable only to a 50p duty.

As announced in July 27 share exchanges on the occasion of a takeover will be exempted.

The main stamp duty earners – land and houses and stocks and shares bring in 50 per cent and 34 per cent respectively of all stamp duty – were left untouched. Last year's Budget halved the amount of duty payable to 1 per cent, reducing the income from stamp duty from £1,100 million in 1983/84 to £860 million this year.

The Stock Exchange, in its Budget submission this year, called for a continued phased reduction in stamp duty, pointing out that London was still the costliest big centre in the world in which to deal in stocks and shares, largely because of stamp duty. Government stocks and most categories of loan stock are exempt.

The Stock Exchange, however, was quite pleased with the Chancellor's measures last year, as they slowed down the accelerating interest in trading British securities in the form of American Depositary Receipts. A further reduction in stamp duty before the end of next year would not have been welcome, as it would have reduced the differences between jobbers and brokers before the exchange was ready. Jobbers pay only 50p stamp duty per transaction.

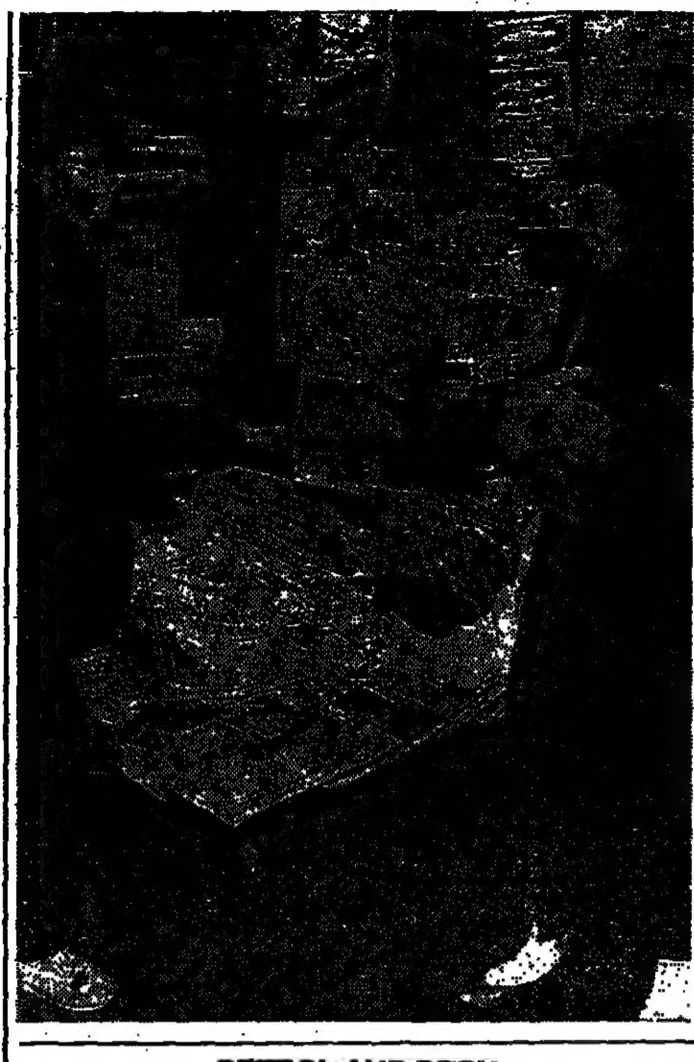
The threshold where stamp becomes payable on houses remained at £30,000 having been raised by £5,000 last year.

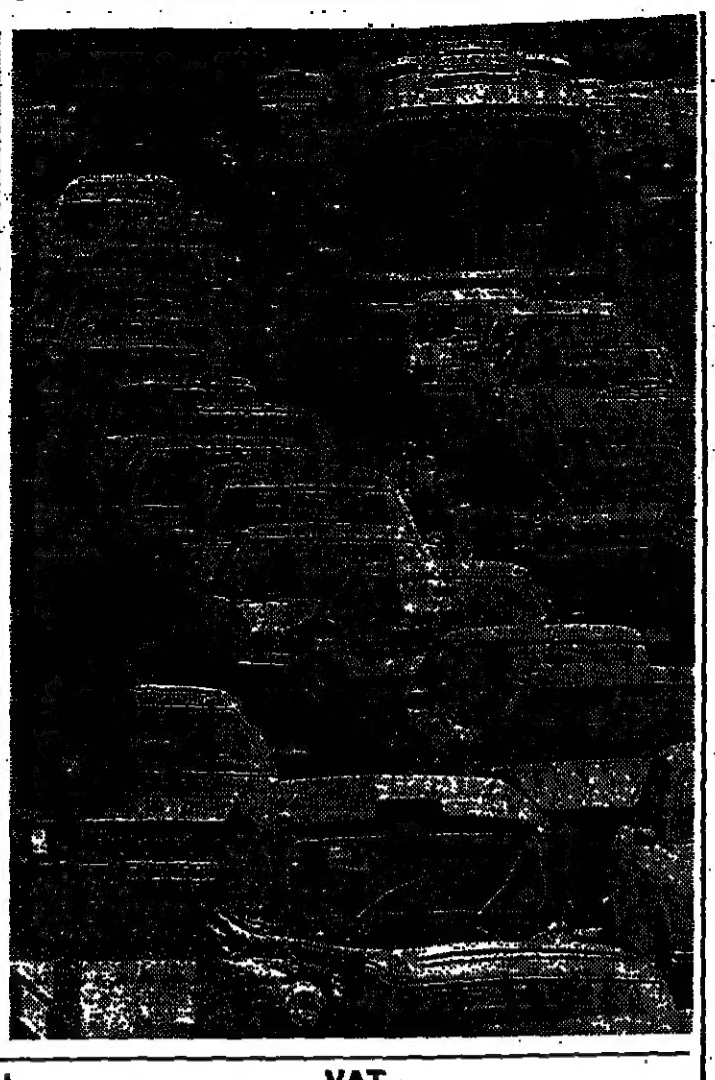
Stamp duty, although it is Britain's oldest tax having been introduced 300 years ago, raises relatively little revenue. Last fiscal year it brought in £1,100 million, with approximately half coming from duty on the transfer of land and houses and 34 per cent from the duty on the transfer of stocks and shares.

This year it is estimated to bring in £860 million after last year's Budget measures halving the stamp duty to 1 per cent, abolishing the tiered system on houses and raising the threshold on houses from £25,000 to £30,000 purchases.

Last year's measures did not go far enough for some of stamp duty's critics, most notably those in the City.

The Royal Institute of British Architects also urged the Chancellor to raise the stamp duty threshold on houses from £30,000 to £35,000.





PETROL AND DERV

£2-a-gallon barrier broken on fuels

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The new price of four-star petrol from 6pm yesterday was 203.6p with diesel rising to 200.4p a gallon.

Taxation on petrol now accounts for 53 per cent of its pump price, with duty at 81.4p a gallon and VAT at 26.6p a gallom taking the total to 108p a gallon. The tax on Derv is now 47 per cent oN a gallon with excise and vat totalling 95p a gallon.

BP calculated that the average motorist covering 9,500 miles a year will spend £13 a year more on petrol. It said last night that the price rise would have a negligible effect on consumption, which is now running at a total of 16.5 million gallons a year in Britain with a projected 1 per cent rise this year.

The new price structure leaves the petrol station with a 7.3p a gallon profit margin and the oil company receiving 88.3p a gallon, a level at which the oil companies are now making small profits.

By raising taxation on petrol and diesel road fuel the Chancellor has done precisely what the oil companies have been desperately keen to avoid doing, introducing the £2 gallon. The companies have been arguing that they need higher prices to cover increased crude oil costs but have been forced to keep prices down because of fierce competition for market share.

The new price structure is now making petrol sales marginally profitable after three months of losses for the oil companies. But there are fears that the new higher prices will reduce turnover.

A new wave of sales promotions is about to start on the forecourts.

VAT

Card firms absorb initial levy shock

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The VAT changes on credit card transactions, which will bring in an extra £20 million to the Government in a full year and £15 million in 1985-86, will push up costs for the credit card companies. But initially the card companies are likely to absorb this and cardholders are unlikely to be affected.

Barclaycard, part of Barclays Bank group, with 7.4 million card customers, said yesterday the impact would be marginal and the cost to the group would be only £4 million a year.

A spokesman for Access, the card issued by the other three big clearing banks, said there were no immediate implications for cardholders, although the service charge to retailers would have to be examined. The other card companies to be affected includes American Express and Diners Club.

At present, card companies levy a charge on retailers on which VAT is payable at 15 per cent. The card companies collect this VAT for the Government but can offset against it the VAT they have paid out on expenditures. By classifying credit card transactions as exempt, the step Mr Lawson announced yesterday, the credit card companies will no longer be able to recover the VAT they have paid out and thus the Government will gain.

The Chancellor also announced a rise in registration limit for VAT from taxable turnover of £18,700 to £19,500 and a single quarterly registration limit of £6,500. (£6,200).

Other VAT measures include relief for engineering and companies involved in the repair of imported goods, for instance aeroplane egines, for subsequent re-export.

ADVERTISING

Magazines and papers face VAT charge

The Chancellor announced that, with effect from May 1, value-added-tax will be extended to newspaper and magazine advertising.

The move is expected to raise an additional revenue of £30 million in 1985-86, £50 million in a full year. The tax change brngs newspaper and magazine advertising into line with advertising in other media. It follows a challenge by the European Commission last autumn to certain of the United Kingdom's zero-rating, one of which was newspaper advertising.

The other main category, non-residential construction, escaped the Chancellor's attention in the Budget. In addition, Mr Lawson promised no further widening of the VAT net during the lifetime of this Parliament.

The Newspaper Society said that the imposition of VAT on newspaper and magazine advertising will have a major impact on cover prices, possibly pushing them up a much as 10 per cent in some cases.

Local and regional newspapers obtain 56 per cent of their advertising revenue from classified advertisements, the society said.

National newspapers, with a higher proportion of business advertising, are unlikely to be as severely affected since, in most cases, the VAT can be reclaimed by the businesses concerned.

The accountancy firm of Price Waterhouse has calculated that VAT on advertising will produce an overall drop of three per cent in advertising revenue, net of tax for the industry. Among regional newspapers, it has been calculated that the annual loss of revenue could be £8 million.

Paid-for newspapers will be thankful that the Chancellor has not imposed VAT on cover prices, which would have given an advantage to "freesheets".

Even so, the industry has warned that VAT on advertising will put many titles at risk, both local newspapers and magazines.

The tax will be introduced on May 1. Newspapers and magazines may be able to delay the full impact of the tax by obtaining pre-payment for series of advertisements.

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Mortgage relief kept at £30,000

By a Staff Reporter

Building society payments are to be brought forward to quarterly instalments as paid by banks, but there is to be no change in the £30,000 limit on mortgage interest tax relief.

The limit for tax relief on mortgage interest was raised from a maximum of £25,000 to £30,000 in last year's budget. As Mrs Thatcher promised last year, the relief is not to be abolished, but nor is it being increased. The relief is available at the borrower's highest tax rate, but does not apply to any part of the mortgage loan above the £30,000 limit.

However, loans of more than this limit, which were previously excluded from the Mortgage Interest Relief at Source scheme introduced in 1983, can now join the scheme. MIRAS enables borrowers to make their monthly payments net of 30 per cent tax on the portion of their loan below £30,000.

Building societies will have to pay tax quarterly, like the banks, instead of once a year as they have done up until now. The move is to put them on the same footing as banks, which will start paying composite rate tax, a 25.3 per cent tax already imposed on all building society accounts, from April 6.

The quarterly payment of interest starting on March 1, 1986, will cost the societies around £40 million in lost interest. Last year, they paid a total of £2 billion in tax. The quarterly payments will fall in May, August, November and February, which differ from the banks' payment date in order to smooth the flow of money to the Exchequer.

Building societies were also told they could now pay interest gross to non-residents of the United Kingdom, charities and registered friendly societies, as banks are already allowed to do.

The societies also welcomed the Chancellor's announcement that the limit of £30,000 on an individual's deposits with a single society to which composite rate tax applies is to be abolished. From April 6 this year investors will be able to deposit as much as they wish with a single society. The limit was one imposed by the Inland Revenue, but the societies have argued that it serves no useful purpose.

PENSIONS FUNDS

Campaign on reliefs succeeds

By Richard Thomson

One of the biggest campaigns against tax changes ever conducted before a Budget ended in success yesterday as the Chancellor annunced that tax reliefs on pension funds would not be touched.

The news brought relief to the pensions industry, employers and trade unions which had argued that withdrawing reliefs would increase employment costs and reduce pension benefits.

Mr Nigel Lawson, who called the campaign "unparalleled", also gave a commitment that if changes were considered in the future they would be preceded by public discussion and a Green Paper.

With 11 million people belonging to occupational pension schemes out of a working population of about 21 million, money "lost" by the Government in pension fund reliefs has risen rapidly.

Recent Inland Revenue calculations suggest that the gross cost of the reliefs in the tax year 1984-85 amounted to £6.8billion, compared with £5.1bmillion two years ago.

After the abolition of life assurance premium relief in last year's Budget, fears grew that the Chancellor's reforms would move next to pensions that receive tax relief on contributions, investment and capital gains and on retirement lump sum payments.

More than 250 MPs signed a Commons early day motion opposing the taxation of lump sums which were considered the most likely target for change.

BOND ISSUES

Plan to ease pressure on lending

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

The Government is taking steps to enable quoted companies to raise finance through regular issues of short-dated bonds of less than five years' maturity.

The move is a further attempt to stimulate the corporate bond market and take pressure off bank lending, making it easier for the Government to hit its monetary targets.

It requires technical changes to the 1979 Banking Act, exempting this type of financing from the provisions of the Act. At present regular issues count as taking deposits, and only recognized banks or licensed deposit-takers are allowed to take deposits from the public.

Issuing of short-dated bonds will be controlled by the Bank of England, whose powers will be extended accordingly. The Bank of England yesterday published rules covering sterling bond issues of between one and five years' maturity.

Only quoted companies or companies whose shares are traded on the USM will be able to make such issues, which can be at either fixed or floating rates of interest.

The bonds will have to be issued with a prospectus or have a full listing. They can be issued or traded only in denominations of at least £100,000, and must have a minimum one-year maturity.

Companies will have to have prior permission from the Bank of England on the size and timing of issues, but they will be able to gain prior permission for the overall amount and then issue the bonds in stages

The controls administered by the Bank of England and the requirement that companies have to be listed or be traded on the USM are designed to give some protection to investors

SMALL BUSINESSES

'A bridge for enterprise and jobs'

The measures to help small businesses were broadly welcomed, particularly the National Insurance and taxation changes. But there was disappointment especially that the threshold on Value Added Tax was not raised more than by the rate of inflation.

The National Insurance payments changes will widely benefit the self-employed. It could encourage more to go into business and goes some way to removing discriminations against the unincorporated business.

Fairer tax treatment for smaller, unincorporated businesses, typically the self-employed entrepeneur, had been widely called for ahead of the Budget. While such companies lost stock relief and some capital allowances in last year's Budget they did not gain, like incorporated companies, from reductions in Corporation Tax.

While the National Insurance changes will probably have the most impact, small businesses will also gain from the relief at retirement from Capital Gains tax.

Most small business lobbyists had wanted to see a substantial rise in the Value Added Tax threshold because of the heavy administrative burden on small businesses. There had also been calls for revision of capital gains tax and capital transfer tax. If the review on wages councils leads to their having less influence it will cut the cost of employing people particularly in smaller businesses struggling to get on their feet. What most in the sector would like to see is the abolition of the councils, at present only one option in the review announced by the Chancellor.

Value Added Tax relief on bad debts should remove an incentive to criditors to petition for a company to be wound up. This could save some struggling businesses from being driven o the wwall at an early stage.

Mr David Trippier, Minister for Small Businesses, said: "Overall I welcome the Budget package particularly because it is a bridge for enterprise and jobs. It is an example of our commitment to the small firms sector which the Government recognises is a generator of employment and wealth creating potential."

While welcoming the main Budget moves to help small businesses, Mr Stan Mendham, director of the Forum for Private Business, said: "The Chancellor has still left us on the rack of high interest rates. This wiill cause loss of jobs." Tax levels were still too high, be maintained.

The National Insurance changes did not go far enough for Mr Bill Poeton, president of the Union of independent Companies. Anybody earning less than £100 a week should have been released from all forms of National Insurance and tax, he said.

CAPITAL GAINS

CGT reform will simplify index linking of profits

Capital gains tax reform is aimed at simplifying the complicated system of index-linking profits first introduced in 1982, and extending its benefits to those who purchase assets before March 1982.

The 12-month "waiting period" before indexation can be applied is abolished. It was introduced originally to discourage short-term capital gains but the recent crackdown on "bondwashing", the method of dealing in gilts to turn income into capital gains for tax purposes, this safeguard is now believed unnecessary.

Doing away with the 12-month period will simplify life for the investor, because the provisions involved complex rules for identifying tranches of shares. Now it is expected that for shares bought post-March 1983 the old system of "pooling", in which the purchase price was averaged, can be reinstated.

Indexation is now extended to losses. If indexation produces a loss on sale, this can be set against other profits.

The change of major importance, to individuals who have held assets for some years, is that the indexation allowances will now be calculated on the market value as at March 1982, rather than the original purchase price.

Now the individual will be able to revalue an asset as at March 1982 and index-linked from that point, creating a smaller profit for tax purposes.

The new indexation rules apply to disposals made after April 6 in the case of individuals, and April 1 for companies.

The Chancellor also raised the level of capital gains tax exemptions

The annual exemption for capital gains tax for an individual or married couple goes up from £5,600 in the current tax year to £5,900 in 1985/86.

CORPORATION TAX

Allowances aligned with plant depreciation

By Ian Griffiths

After last year's sweeping changes and reform of corporation tax the Chancellor did not find it necessary to make too many adjusments to the current regime in this year's Budget. However, there are still some amendments to the capital allowances system.

New arrangements will be introduced which will bring tax allowances in line with the actual depreciation of machinery or plant when it is sold or scrapped within five yeas of acquisition. This is not generally possible at present.

In future, where an item of plant or machinery, which is bought on or after April 1 1986, is disposed of at less than its tax written-down value within a five-year period beginning in the year of acquisition, then it will become possible to elect to have the capital allowances relating to that item calculated separately from the main machinery or plant pool. This will be known as de-pooling.

The separate calculation will allow the balancing adjustment to be made on a disposal but if the plant or machinery has not been sold by the end of the five-year period, then its tax written-down value will be transferred to the main machinery pool.

This kind of election will be used most frequently by companies which use a lot of high technology equipment. This has a much shorter asset life than traditional plant and equipment and is, therefore, written off more quickly.

The de-pooling arrangements will not apply to items of capital expenditure which are dealt with outside the main pool, such as cars and assets leased to non-traders.

The Finance Bill will also include minor changes to the capital allowances system which have already been announced. These measures include the rates at which allowances can by charged and timing of writing down allowances.

The Chancellor has decided that he will not reduce that rate of allowances which can be claimed on scientific reasearch expenditure. This will remain at 100 per cent although there will be some minor changes in the scope of the allowance.

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

Property developers excluded

Property developers will no longer be able to raise finance under the Business Expansion Scheme following the Chancellor's announcement that they do not rank as a qualifying trade. Building and construction companies will be unaffected by the change.

However, the Chancellor has slightly widened the scope of the scheme and, in future, research and development companies will be able to use the BES to help raise money. The change for these companies applies to shares issued after April 5 1985.

The exclusion of property development companies is immediate, although it will not affect relief in respect of shares issued on or before March 19.

Last year he excluded farms from the scheme and in recent months the growing number of property developers making use of the BES has attracted criticism from those who believe that the scheme was being abused for tax avoidance.

The BES was established in 1983 to replace the Business Start Up Scheme and has become very popular with the City. In 1983-84 it attracted investment of about £80 million. It also offers substantial tax benefits.

The scheme provides tax relief at the investor's marginal rate of taxation for up to £40,000 a year in shares of unquoted British companies. This offers an attractive combination of tax relief and an investment in relatively safe assets.

The scheme was, however, intended to encourage small businesses to grow and not to help finance property development.

The Government has commissioned a review of the scheme by Peat Marwick, the accountants. This is investigating the use and practical workings of the scheme and should produce some evidence on whether funds are being ploughed into the right kind of business. The report is due to be completed in the summer.

Some tax advisers had been hoping that the Chancellor would improve the flexibility of the scheme. It has rigid restraints on the activities of qualifying companies and also on the investors and the timing and availability of the tax relief.

The Chancellor's failure to make the scheme more flexible will therefore come as a disappointment. It now seems that no substantial overhaul can be expected until after the Peat Marwick review is completed.

Chancellor has it right, CBI chief says

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said: "The Chancellor has got it right; interest rates should fall because he is keeping a grip on inflation and on borrowing. This budget ought to be good for growth and jobs; that is the acid test.

"We very much welcome restraint on the tax treatment on pensions, as we urged. We have been calling for a two-year youth training scheme, and this is a real step forward.

"Naturally, we need to know the financial plan and want time to discuss the quality of training. We will do all we can to make it succeed."

Sir Terence went on: "The CBI is pleased that there will be fairer treatment for companies investing in short-term assests, as we urged. But many employers will be disappointed that nothing else was done to smooth the transition between the old and the new system of capital allowances for investment.

"On jobs, 800,000 people will be lifted out the income tax net. The tilt in national insurance contributions should also help people to get work, that is good news for employment.

"The Chancellor's undertaking to consult on further changes in income tax and national insurance contributions and benefits is very much welcomed. The CBI was calling for this."

Mr Jack Newby, director-general of the Building Employers' Confederation, said the Chancellor could have created many more permanent jobs by enabling greater investment to be made in building programmes.

"Nevertheless the industry welcomes the abolition of the development land tax, which should result in landowners releasing more land for house-building," he said.

"The building industry also welcomes the Chancellor's commitment to continue resistance to EEC pressure to impose 15 per cent VAT on new commercial and industrial building. Any move in this direction would have threatened further job losses in an industry where already over 400,000 workers are unemployed."

But he added: "The BEC regrets that the Chaneellor, far from reducing the VAT registration threshoild to nil to combat the menace of cowboy operators, marginally raised the limit. This can only boost the black economy at the expense of bona fide builders."

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors also welcomed the assurance of continued opposition to Vat on new buildings. But Mr Geoffrey Townsend, President of the Institution, said the Chancellor had done little or nothing to remove the shackles on public sector spending.

ALCOHOL

Brewers predict price rises will lead to job losses

Alcoholic drink sales – already in the doldrums except for table wines – are expected to slide in the wake of the Budget increases. It could bring a threat to jobs both in the beer trade and in the Scotch whisky industry.

Even the boom in table wine sales could falter as this increasingly popular tipple shares the burden of additional excise duties and taxation. The Chancellor had been easing duties on table wines compared with those of beer to meet a European Court ruling and in last year's Budget he cut table wine prices by 18p a bottle. Last year, wine sales rose 16 per cent or more.

This time round he has added 6p to a bottle of table wine. An increase in line with inflation would have raised the price by 4p.

TAX AND DUTY

Excise duties and VAT as percentage of purchase price

	Beer	Petrol	Cigarettes	Whisky
Excise duty	23%	40%	65%	63%
VAT	13%	13%	13%	13%
Total tax	36%	53%	78%	76%

Mr Lawson ignored pleas from the brewers to let beer off more lightly this year and added between 1p and 2p to a pint, depending on strength. Inflation dictated 1p. Being even-handed in his treatment of table wine and beer meant adding 1.5p a pint.

The beer rise means more premium ales and lagers will be selling at £1 or more a pint in areas such as the South-east where beer prices tend to be the highest.

It pushes the average price for a pint of bitter in Britain to at least 69p. It remains to be seen whether there will be widespread rounding up to 2p more a pint. That would take the average price for a pint to 70p.

Sales of beer last year stayed at depressed levels, beer production showing a fractional decline of 0.4 per cent compared with 1983. There were industry hopes that the decline in sales had reached bottom. If sales now slide further, it could threaten more brewery closures.

The Brewers' Society said the tax increases on beer again penalized Britain's 30 million beer drinkers who have seen excessive rises in tax every year since 1979.

The cider increase of 1p a pint is above the inflation rate.

The 10p rise on a bottle of spirits is below the inflation rate, which could have led the Chancellor into adding 25p to a bottle. But it is a fresh threat to Scotch whisky sales. In the six months after last year's Budget, when 10p went on a bottle, sales in Britain, judged by releases from bond into the trade, dropped 9 per cent. There was some recovery in October last year, but not in November compared with the same months in 1983.

A warning that more distillery shutdowns cannot be ruled out has already come from the Scotch Whisky Association even though exports rose 1.5 per cent last year.

The Chancellor ignored the plea for more favourable treatment of the so-called sideboard wines – sherries, ports and vermouths – made by the Wine and Spirit Association because of long-term sales declines in these drinks.

Sparkling wine goes up 10p a bottle. The Wine and Spirit Association said it was dismayed at the discrimination against the sideboard wines.

HOW BEER PRICES HAVE RISEN

Average bitter price in the public bar

	p		p
1960	6	1979	34
1970	11.5	1980	40.5
1974	15	1981	49
1975	19.5	1982	54.5
1976	23	1983	61
1977	26.5	1984	68
1978	28.5	1985	69-70

Source: Brewers' Society

COMPANY CARS

Rise of 10% in benefit scale rates

Changes in the amount of tax payable on company cars are as expected. The scale rates for car "benefits in kind" have been increased by 10 per cent and the average employee driving a company car, who was deemed to be receiving a benefit in kind worth £410 in 1985-86, will be deemed to be receiving £450 of taxable car benefit in 1986-87.

Most disappointing for recipients of company cars is the Chancellor's failure yet again to raise the threshold for "high-paid employees from its 1979 level of £8,500.

All employees with earnings above that threshold who benefit from a company car will be subject to the new rates. Similar 10 per cent increases are to be introduced on car-fuel benefits.

CAR BENEFIT – 1986-87 (1985-86)

Cars with original market value up to £19,250 (£17,500)

Cylinder capacity	Age of car at end of relevant year (in years): Under 4	4 or more
Up to 1300cc	450(410)	300(275)
1301cc – 1800cc	575(525)	380(350)
Over 1800cc	900(825)	600(550)

CIGARETTE SALES

6p rise likely to hit tobacco jobs

Declines in tobacco consumption, particularly of cigarettes, are expected to accelerate in the wake of the Chancellor's changes as soon as stocks at pre-Budget prices run out in the shops in about a month.

The tobacco industry has already given a warning that more jobs could be at risk in Britain if the Budget raised taxation by more than the rate of inflation. That would have restrained the duty and tax increase to 4p at the most but the Chancellor added 6p to a packet of 20 cigarettes.

In last year's Budget cigarette tax went up 10p and sales plunged, ending the year 2.5 per cent down as demand to an extent was re-established later in the year. In the 12 months to August 1984 about 2,500 jobs were lost after a number of tobacco factory closures. Some jobs disappeared in productivity deals but the industry largely blamed high taxation.

What increases the threat to British jobs are increases in imports, now accounting for about 4 per cent of the cigarette market.

Under the impact of the imports surge consumption of British-made cigarettes dropped by 5.2 per cent last year. Own-label cigarettes sold by grocery and other chains are partly made abroad.

How cigarette sales have declined

	millions
1975	132,600
1976	130,600
1977	125,900
1978	125,200
1979	124,300
1980	121,500
1981	110,300
1982	102,000
1983	101,600
1984	99,060

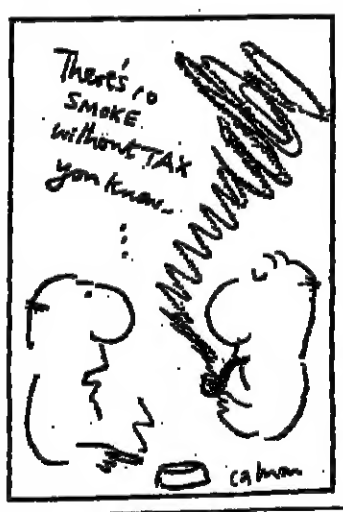
Source: trade returns

These and other low-price brands have about 8 per cent of the market, selling at about £1, while the best selling king-size cigarette, Benson and Hedges special filter made by Gallaher, has had a recommended price of £1.29.

Many jobs in tobacco manufacturing are in areas of higher unemployment. But for every job at risk in manufacturing another seven could be under threat among suppliers, such as filter and paper makers, and in the distribution chain including tobacconists and newsagents.

Although cigars are the least heavily taxed tobacco products except for snuff, which carries no excise duty, sales have been drifting down since 1979. Tax on cigars accounts for half the retail price. The tobacco industry had urged the Chancellor not to increase taxation levels because it was believed that the present taxation burden was probably the most cigars could stand without a disproportionate drop in sales. That would hit tax revenue.

Pipe tobacco had now escaped a tax increase for three years running but over 10 years sales have plunged by 38 per cent. Tax on pipe tobacco is about two thirds of the retail price; on cigarettes it accounts for about three quarters of the retail price. Nearly half of pipe smokers are men aged 60 and over.



FUTURES

Taxation on equal footing

By a Staff Reporter

London's futures markets have won their battle to have transactions taxed in the same way as equities. Mr Lawson proposed yesterday that profits from futures transactions which are not part of a trade should be treated as capital gains.

Under the rules currently applied such transactions may be taxed under Schedule D, Case VI, that is, as non-trading income. The futures exchanges argued that this treatment of gains as income rather than capital placed their business at a competitive disadvantage with equities.

The change to capital taxation, which applies to commodity and financial futures and to options, was welcomed last night by the London Commodity Exchange and the London International Financial Futures Exchange.

But the tax treatment of futures contracts which run to delivery, rather than being closed out before maturity, will still be by the existing rules.

SAVINGS

£3 billion target decided

The personal savings industry yesterday welcomed the Chancellor's statement that some £3 billion of the next year's public spending borrowing requirement would be financed through National Savings. The figure is the same as the target for 1984/5.

Mr Mark Boleat, deputy general secretary of the Building Societies Association commented. "This is a modest target for next year. It would have had to be a considerably larger figure to have any effect

With one month to go the department of National Savings still has a net 1230 million to pull in before the end of the financial year.

However, in the first half of the year National Savings fell well behind it's funding target of around £250 million per month. In order to catch up it disrupted the savings markets by launching its twenty-eighth issue savings certificate offering interest well above the prevailing market rates.

It became the fastest selling certificate ever, attracting £695 million gross in four weeks but forced building societies to raise their investment and mortgage rates to compete.

MULTINATIONALS

Companies escape tax changes

By Ian Griffiths

Multinational companies have escaped any serious restriction of their international tax planning activities.

The Inland Revenue said yesterday that no legislation on companies with dual residence would be introduced this year, although the matter is being kept under review.

There had been a suggestion that such companies would have been affected and those to suffer most would have been the so-called link companies.

The use of link companies has increased recently. They are set up when a British company invests in a US subsidiary and needs to finance the acquisition with borrowings. The link company is registered as a US corporation and located offshore, but it is wholly managed and controlled from Britain.

This way the link companny, which is inserted in the group structure between the British holding company and the US subsidiary, becomes resident for tax purposes both at home and in America.

The borrowings are held by the link company which is therefore able to obtain tax relief, through the group relief provisions, on the interest payable on the loans both in the US and Britain. With corporation tax rates of 46 per cent in the US and 45 per cent at home this meant a company could obtain relief for 91 per cent of its interest payments.

Restriction on tax loss relief

The tax relief which a limited partner will be able to claim for losses incurred in the partnership will be restricted in future to the amount actually put into and at risk in the partnership. The Chancellor announced that the restrictions would apply to individual and company limited partners.

In most partnerships each partner is responsible for all the partnership's losses. In a limited partnership, however, only one partner need have unlimited liability, with the limited partners having their responsiblility restricted to the amount they contributed to the business. The new rules will prevent a limited partner from obtaining unlimited relief for his share of losses

NATIONAL INSURANCE

End of higher earnings limit on employers' contributions angers firms

By Lorna Bourke

In a £800 million package of National Insurance reforms, the Chancellor astounded employers by abolishing the higher earnings limit for employers' contributions.

In the past, employers have paid National Insurance contributions on the same basis as employees: a fixed percentage on earnings below a ceiling. In 1985-86 that ceiling was due to be raised to £265 a week or £13,780 a year and the employer's contribution stood at 10.45 per cent of employees earnings below this level.

However, the Chancellor has decided to abolish the upper earnings limit from October, 1985, making all earnings subject to the 10.45 per cent National Insurance levy.

Employees' contributions on earnings above that ceiling remain unaffected. They will continue to pay National Insurance contributions at 9.0 per cent on earnings though there are concessions at the bottom of the scale.

The move to extend employers contributions was greeted with alarm by the Institute of Directors.

Mr Graham Mather, of the institute, said: "We obviously welcome the changes at the lower end of the scale but we feel that it may prove to be an expensive way of introducing wage flexibility. Abolishing the higher income ceiling for employers contributions turns the National Insurance system into another tax.

In high technology and service sector companies, it makes taking on skilled employees more expensive".

The abolition of the ceiling on employers' contributions will affect those industries with a high proportion of highly paid employees more heavily than others. Industries likely to suffer most will be newspapers, computer hardware ans soft ware companies, advertising and public relations, ans other growth industries suffering skill shortage which force up wages.

However, at the bottom end of the earnings scale, the Chancellor has made some concessions in an attempt to stimulate empoloyment amongst school-leavers and the unskilled.

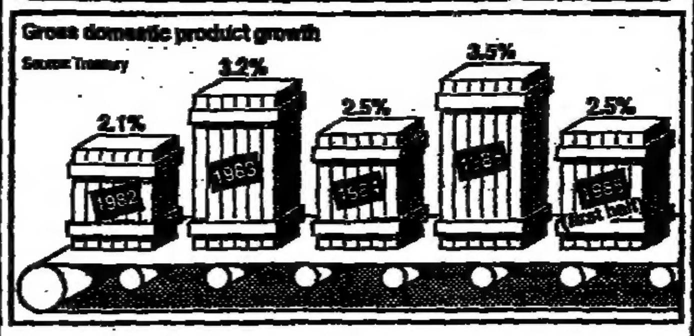
For employees earning less than £35.50 a week, the new lower earnings threshold, they will continue to be exempt from National Insurance contributions.

Employees earning more than £35.50 a week and up to the new 1985-86 higher threshold of £265 a week could have expected to pay National Insurance contributions of 9 per cent. However, the Chancellor has introduced lower contribution levels of 5 per cent for those earning between £35.50 and £55 a week.

The estimated cost to employers of abolishing the higher earnings limit for employers' contributions is £800 million a year.

The self-employed have also been granted concessions. They are to be allowed to offset 50 per cent of their Class 4 National Insurance contributions, the profit related element, against gross earnings before calculating their income tax liability. That new relief comes into operation on April 6 this year.

OUTPUT



Dismissed rights after two years

By Frances Gibbs, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Employees will lose the right to bring a claim against employers for unfair dismissal unless they have held a job for two years under proposed changes in employment protection law announced by the Chancellor yesterday.

At present employees can bring such claims after serving a one-year probationary period in all firms but those with 20 or fewer employees. Now the two-year qualifying period that applies to those small firms is to be extended to all firms.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said: "The risk of unjustified involvement with tribunals in unfair dismissal cases and the cost of such involvement are often cited as deterring employers from giving more people jobs."

The change should reduce employers' reluctance to take on more people while preserving fair balance between the reasonable interests of employer and employee, he said.

The new order which will change the law has yet to be debated by Parliament, but could be in force by the summer. It will affect only employees taken on after it has cone into force and not the rights of anyone at present employed.

A Department of Employment spokesman said yesterday: "Our postbag tells us that employers do regard the employment protection legislation as a deterrent; something to be frightened of. Many employers are worried that if they take people on they cannot sack them and that may be stopping them from offering jobs".

Under the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 employees have the right not to be unfairly dismissed by their employers. The Secretary of State has power to vary the qualification period by which such rights come into effect.

The concept of unfair dismissal was first contained in the Industrial Relations Act 1971. At that time the qualifying period for an unfair dismissal claim was two years. That was reduced to one year in 1974 and six months in 1975. It was then increased in 1979 to one year, and to two years for firms with 20 or fewer staff in 1980.

There were 30,076 complaints of unfair dismissal to industrial tribunals in 1983 of which one third proceeded to a tribunal hearing. Unfair dismissal claims account for about three quarters of all complaints to industrial tribunals.

The rights apply to employees working for 16 or more hours a week. Those working for eight hours or more but fewer than 16 will still have to serve a five-year probationary period before they can bring an unfair dismissal claime.

DEVELOPMENT LAND TAX

Property industry welcomes end of 'time-consuming' tax

Development Land Tax (DLT) has been abolished as from last night, a move which will be welcomed by the property development and construction industries.

The Chancellor said the tax was scrapped because it discouraged land being put forward for development, which would be made worse by the widening gap between DLT at 60 per cent and corporation tax which is being reduced to 35 per cent. All deferred DLT is to be cancelled immediately.

Development gains will in future be liable to income tax, capital gains tax or corporation tax. DLT arrears will still be collected.

The Government stans to lose £20 million net in the financial year 1985-86 from abolishing DLT, and £50 million in the full year.

On the other hand the tax was costing £5 million a year to collect. Assessing DLT has always been extremely complicated involving, as Mr Lawson said, wading through 200 pages of legislation to find out if there was a liability.

The development industry will welcome the move with open arms. It believes that more land will be developed and the process of getting schemes out of the ground will be speeded up.

Establishing if and when DLT was payable could be a time consuming process which hit projects where land values were a major element of the cost rather than central city schemes which are more profitable.

Development Land Tax was introduced in 1976 by the Labour Government. Its intention was to claw back a substantial part of what were seen as windfall gains made on all forms of land ownership and development.

The tax was introduced against a background of rapidly rising land prices and was a backlash against what were regarded as huge profits being made by developers on the granting of planning permission.

OIL EXPLORATION

Search for onshore fields likely to slow

David Young, Energy Correspondent

Exploration for onshore oil is likely to slow as a result of changes in the rules for offsetting exploration and well-testing expenses on onshore fields against taxation on oil-producing wells in the North Sea.

Oil companies will have to analyse the full effect of the tax changes, but industry analysts are already calculating that up to a dozen of the smaller firms will be adversely affected.

In future, onshore exploration costs cannot be offset against Petroleum Revenue Tax, although the concession introduced in 1983 to stimulate the search for oil in the United Kingdom will still apply to offshore operations.

However, several smaller companies have bought shares of the production of the BP Forties Field and the Occidental Claymore unit to take advantage of the tax concession and defray their onshore exploration costs.

The Chancellor's view, however, is that as onshore oil exploration costs are so low compared with offshore costs, the benefit should go solely to offshore exploration.

The oil industry, as well as being surprised, is also disappointed that no tax concession has been introduced to stimulate incremental production and enhanced recovery from existing North Sea fields.

Oil companies have been suggesting that a 25 per cent incremental investment allowance would encourage high-technology underwater production systems.

But the Chancellor has been aware that the introduction of such allowances would have been criticized as being a hand-out to extremely profitable companies in a booming industry.

WAGES COUNCILS

Green Paper poses serious abolition threat

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A Green Paper discussing the possible abolition of wages councils will probably be published tomorrow and is likely to cause a storm of protest from trade unions representing low-paid workers.

Government action against wages councils, which regulate minimum pay for about 2.5 million workers, is part of the drive to remove what ministers regard as constraints on the labour market. The consultation paper will enable employers and unions to voice their preferences for the future of the councils.

The paper is likely to present at least three options, ranging from complete abolition of the councils and reforming measures to retaining them in their present form. Ideas suggested for changes include removing the pay of young people from the auspices of the councils.

The Chacellor said in his speech that the Government believed they were responsibile for destroying jobs, and argue that guaranteeing what they regard as unrealistic rates of pay for young entrants into job inhibits employers' willingness to take on extra staff.

There are 26 wages councils with a million of the workers covered operating in the retail and catering sectors, while there areas covered include clothing manufacture and hairdressing. The councils were established to ensure that fair wages were paid to workers who were not well organized by trade unions.

The British Government is a signatory to the International Labour Organization convention on guaranteeing minimum rates of pay and in order to withdraw from that convention at the next opportunity the Government would have to give notice in June. There would then be a 12 months period before Britain was no longer bound by convention, which would seem to indicate that the Government will at least give notice of possible abolition of wages councils by June.

Boost for technical students
£126,200 rise for the Queen
Princes' pay

THE BUDGET

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Inland Revenue crackdown
Partnership taxation
Heavy lorries duty

EDUCATION

Big increase in spending on technical training

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Government funding to enable universities to take 4.000 more engineering and technical students, and teachers to be trained to teach vocational and technical subjects in school, was announced yesterday.

The Government will also introduce legislation to make radical changes in funding on-the-job training for teachers, presently administered by local authorities. The legislation, expected in 1987, would allow more central funding and control of in-service training.

Until then the Manpower Services Commission will operate a new scheme to train serving teachers to teach technical and vocational skills to children, spending £5 million in 1985-86. The following year central government will release £20 million for the scheme.

A total of £43 million will be given to universities over the next three years to fund the shift which the Government wants to see from arts subjects to science.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in the House of Commons yesterday that the programme marked a substantial response to requests from industry for an increase in engineering and technology graduates.

The statement on in-service training was described by a spokesman for the Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA) as "state domination of what is taught".

The AMA is concerned not only that the Manpower Services Commission will run an interim scheme to train teachers in vocational and technical skills, but also that it might take over part of training permanently.

"It is totally incapable of doing the job," the spokesman said. "There is no justification for the Goverment to interfere with the way in which local education authorities train their employees".

Central government concern at local authorities' failure to fund on-the-job training is well known.

The extra 4,000 places in engineering and technology will be an addition to a programme which began in December 1982 with an announcement of 5.000 new student places on science courses.

VALUE ADDED TAX

Stiffer penalties for defaulters

By Ian Griffiths

Companies which fail to deliver their value-added-tax returns, pay the tax on time or break other regulations will face stiffer penalties and incur interest charges after the Chancellor's decision to implement the bulk of the proposals for VAT set out in the Keith committee report on tax enforcement powers.

Full details will be included in the next month's finance Bill but the changes are likely to involve companies in an increase or improvement in administration.

The Bill is likely to introduce a series of automatic penalties of interest and surcharges which will be imposed in the event of breaches in regulations. Where VAT returns are submitted late or payment not made on time the customs and excise will be able to levy a default surchage which could rise for repeated offences to 30 per cent of the estimated VAT liability.

Where VAT returns understate the true VAT liability an interest charge could be imposed. For failure to comply with regulations, such as maintaining inadequate records, penalties of up to £500 might be incurred.

In an effort to help traders meet the new requirements Ernst and Whinney has just published a booklet entitled *"VAT – Does Your System Comply?"*, which should help businesses to pinpoint the difficulties that might arise in future.

Mr James Dixon, a VAT partner with accountants Ernst and Whinney, said: "The changes will mean that some traders, whose business is largely of a cash nature, will no longer be able to obtain an interest-free loan from the customs and excise by delaying their VAT payments.

"However, businesses which operate on a credit basis, sometimes offering up to three months to pay, might find in some extreme cases that they have to hand over the VAT payment before they actually receive the cash."

The immediate impact of the changes for the the Exchequer is to improve the revenue flow by £50 million in 1985-86 through more accurate and increased assessement on taxpayers who persistently fail to furnish VAT returns.

There will be a once-and-for-all increase in revenue flow by 1985-89 amounting to £60 million, achieved through a reduction of outstanding VAT arrears. The annual revenue which will be derived from default surcharge, interest and penalties will build up to £150 million over time.

The Government estimates that at any time there is an average of £1.2 billion of VAT overdue. The new proposals are designed to provide a balance between the interests of the Excheequer and the taxpayer, and to improve the efficiency and fairness of the collection arrangements.

Chancellor aiming to restore his image

Continued from page 1

eight and half million people earning less than £130 a week will be reduced by £900million, mainly furnished by higher contributions on the higher paid.

From October it will cost a business £3 a week less to employ a young person or unskilled worker at just below £90 a week. A single person on that rate of pay will take an extra £3 a week as a result of paying £1.80 less in national insurance and £1.15 less in income tax.

The net cost to the Exchequer is estimated at £160million in 1985-86 and £450million in a full year.

The contribution rate for employees will be reduced from 9 per cent to 5 per cent for those earning between the threshold of £35.50 and £55 a week; and to to 7 per cent for those earning £55 to £90 a week.

For employers, the changes are even more radical. The upper limit on contributions is being ablolished, thus sharply increasing the cost of employing those earning above the present ceiling of £265 a week.

Lower rates of 5 per cent for the employers of those earnings £35.50 to £55, rising to the full rate of £10.45 only on those over £130, are also brings introduced.

As part of his employment package Mr Lawson also announced a large extension to the Youth Training Scheme, with the aim of providing two years' training for 16-year-olds and a year for 17-year-olds not in full-time education. Employers will bear most of the cost.

The Community Programme, which now provides 130,000 places, will be expanded to offer 100,000 more.

Mr Lawson is also determined to ease restraints that discourage employment. The qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims will become two years' for all new employees, not only for those in small firms.

Proposals ina new consultative documents on the future of wage councils, "which tend to reduce employment by fixing wages above the level at which people, especially the young, would be prepared to work", include their abolition.

A "green paper" on personal taxation is promised for later in the year, probably before the autumn. The chancellor proposes to restructure personal tax allowances. At present couples who both work receive roughly two and a half times the single person's allowance, while if only one works the couple receives only one half times the single allowance.

Instead the Chancellor is proposing that all couples should receive the equivalent of two single allowances that can be set against either or both of their earnings.

Meanwhile, he has raised the basic allowances for those under pension age by 10 per cent roughly twice the amount needed to compensation for inflation raising the single and wife's earned income allowances from £2,005 to £2,205 and the married man's allowance £3,155 to £3,455.

The "age allowances" are being raised by the same cash amount, which means by a smaller percentage - from £2,490 to £2,690 for the single and £3,955 to £4,255 for the married.

Some 800,000 people will be "taken out tax", 400,000 more than would have been relieved by straightforward indexation.

Royal pay: Civil List fails to keep pace with inflation.

CIVIL LIST

Royal Family cash up by 3.25%

By Alan Hamilton

The Civil List, the annual government payment to cover the Royal Family's official expenses, is to rise by 3.25 per cent, the smallest increase for several years and well below the rate of inflation.

For the new financial year the total goes up to £5,180,100, compared with £5,017,000 last year.

Because the Queen contributes from her private funds to cover the expenses of Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, the Dukes of Gloucester and Kent, and Princess Alexandra, the final total payable by the Treasury for the coming year will be £4,838,200.

More than two thirds of the Civil List allowance goes on salaries, from the Queen's private secretary to Palace cleaners. Of this year's increase, most will be set aside for 3 per cent pay rises in line with government guidelines.

Despite the small increase no compulsory redundancies are envisaged among Palace staff. But the total, now a little below 400, would continue to be trimmed by natural wastage, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

The number of engagements undertaken by most members of the Royal Family continues to increase and the Palace has sought other ways of cost-cutting.

Apart from salaries, the main items to be paid for from the Queen's allowances are office stationery and supplies, running the royal kitchens, maintaining furnishings, staging the Buckingham Palace garden parties, and maintaining the cars and carriages in the Royal Mews.

The Prince of Wales receives no allowances from the Civil List, drawing his income from the Duchy of Cornwall. Prince Edward, entitled to £20,000 a year since he was 18, will draw only £8,500 while he is at Cambridge University. The rest will be invested.

The Civil List, 1985-86

Amount (£'000s)	Income over last year (£'000s)
Queen 3,976	126
Duke of Edinburgh	192.6 6
Queen Mother 345.3	10
Princess Anne 120	3.8
Princess Margaret 116.6	3.7
Prince Andrew 20	No change
Prince Edward 20	No change
Refunded by Queen:	
Princess Alice 47.3	1.5
Duke of Gloucester 94	3
Duke of Kent 127	4
Princess Alexandra 120.9	3 9

PARTNERSHIPS

New rules to stop avoidance of tax

The basis of taxation for partnerships will change substantially after the Chancellor's decision to clamp down on tax avoidance which can occur when there is a change in membership.

Under the new rules the income tax year in which the change of partnership takes place and for the three subsequent tax years, the assessment will be on the actual profits arising in each of those years.

This changes the existing and complex rules which come into effect when there is a change in membership and reduces the options which are available to the partners to decide on what basis they wish to be taxed.

The new rules will apply only where at least one person is a partner in both the old and new partnerships and election for the partnership to be treated as a continuing business could have been, but was not, made. The option to make a continuation election remains unchanged.

The law is being amended in response to criticism from the Public Accounts Committee that members of a partnership could manipulate the tax rules that apply when a business starts and ends to achieve a reduction in tax liabilities by virtue only of a change in the make up of the partnership personnel rather than a genuine change in the business.

The change affects only the early years of the new partnership and no change is to be made to the basis applying to the final years of the old partnership.

VEHICLE EXCISE

Lorries to pay graded levy for road damage

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

All lorries will for the first time meet the cost of the damage they inflict on the roads following further increases in vehicle excise duty on heavy lorries.

The increase will apply to 150,000 heavy lorries, whose duty will rise by from £30 to £360, or 7 to 29 per cent.

The effect of the Chancellor's proposals is to bring tax payments for heavier lorries more closely into line with those for other vehicles and are to be comparable in terms of the damage they do to the roads.

"For the first time every class of lorry will cover its road track costs," the Deparment of Transport said last night.

For a two-axle lorry of 15-17 tonnes, annual vehicle excise duty rises from £850 to £1,030 (21.1 per cent); for a three-axle vehicle of 23 to 25 tonnes duty rises from £1,250 to £1,610 (28.8 per cent); and for a four-axle lorry of 29 to 31 tonnes the rise is from £2,100 to £2,420 (15.2 per cent).

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said the changes represented a further step in "matching the pattern of taxation for lorries to the pattern of their costs".

But the Freight Transport Association described the changes as unwelcome and unjustified. "Heavy vehicles face a very significant rise because it is alleged they do not pay", said Mr Garry Turvey, FTA director general.

"On the Government's own figures lorries in total pay their way, and there was therefore no justification for increasing tax on this essential part of industrial production".

The effect would be to raise lorry operating costs by up to 1½ per cent, the FTA estimated.

£900m jobs projects

Continued from page 1

Extra spending YTS will amount to £425m over the next three years and detailed discussions of the new scheme will be held with employers' and unions' representatives

The Community Programme, which provides 130,000 places a year for long-term unemployed to do work of value to the community, is being extended by 100,000 places at an extra cost of £600m up to 1987. The Government claims that people leaving the programme are two to three times more likely to find a full-time job than those unemployed who have not been on CP.

Around 200,000 people a year have been on the programme earning an average £63 a week.

The Government will recoup some £56m by the abolition of the Young Workers Scheme which provided incentives to employers not to pay high wages to young people. They receive a £15-a-week rebate from the Government for each young worker whose wages do not exceed £50.

March 19, 1985

PARLIAMENT

Controlling public expenditure is one of the most difficult tasks facing any democratic government

Chancellor's proposals to combat scourge of unemployment

COMMONS

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, began his second Budget statement by saying: In last year's Budget statement I charted the course for this Parliament. Today I reaffirm the Government's determination to hold to that course, the purpose of which is nothing less than the defeat of inflation. We have not wavered from that purpose. Nor will we.

But the defeat of inflation, essential though it is, is not enough. We must also do what we can to combat the scourge of unemployment. Nor is there any conflict between these two objectives.

So my Budget today has two themes: to continue the drive against inflation and to help create the conditions for more jobs.

I shall begin by reviewing the economic background to the Budget. I shall then deal with the medium-term financial strategy, with monetary policy, and with the fiscal prospect, both this year and next. I shall then turn to the Government strategy for jobs and the measures to implement that strategy. These will involve action on a number of fronts, including both tax reduction and tax reform.

I start with the economic background. Once again we can look back on a year of steady growth and low inflation. During 1984 as a whole, inflation remained at around 5 per cent. Output grew by a further 2½ per cent, with investment up by 6½ per cent and non-oil exports by 9 per cent, to reach all-time record levels in each case.

Manufacturing industry recovered particularly strongly, with output up by 3½ per cent – the biggest rise in any single year since 1973 – exports up by 10 per cent and investment by 13 per cent. The current account of the balance of payments has remained in surplus, for the fifth successive year. By international standards, too, the economy has performed well.

Our growth was above, and our inflation below, the European Community average.

Moreover, this progress has been achieved in the teeth of the coal strike, for which, in the short term, the nation has had to pay a heavy price. In the current financial year the coal strike has reduced the level of national output by over 1¼ per cent and worsened the balance of payments by some £4 billion. It has increased public expenditure by £2½ billion and public sector borrowing by £2¼ billion. It has cost us confidence abroad and jobs at home.

But the costs, both economic and constitutional, of submitting to this strike would have been infinitely greater than the costs that have been incurred in successfully resisting it.

And it is a remarkable tribute to the underlying strength of the British economy that it has been able to withstand so long and damaging a strike in such good shape.

Looking ahead, we are now about to embark on what will be the fifth successive year of steady growth, with output in 1985 as a whole set to rise by a further 3½ per cent. Inflation may edge up for a time, perhaps to 6 per cent by the middle of the year, but should then fall back to 5 per cent by the end of the year and lower still in 1986.

While there can be no disputing the strength and durability of the economic upswing, there is equally no disputing the fact that it is marred by an unacceptably high level of unemployment. And this despite the fact that the latest figures suggest that employment has risen by half a million over the past two years, with a further increase likely over the year ahead.

If at home the past year has been overshadowed by the coal strike, internationally it has been dominated by the relentless surge of the dollar, which rose by a further 30 per cent against all the major European currencies. To finance its massive budget deficit the United States is importing a large part of the rest of the world's savings and exporting some of its own inflation.

This is not a sustainable state of affairs. As Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Vicker last month testified to Congress, the United States is living on borrowed money and borrowed time. But meanwhile it is not only America that is paying the interest.

All this has led to one of the most turbulent years in the financial markets within living memory. It has been, and will continue to be, a time for strong nerves and sound policies.

STRATEGY

Success on two counts

We have already shown that we are not afraid to take action, however unpalatable, to keep the Medium-Term Financial Strategy on course in an unpredictabe and uncertain world.

That strategy was first launched five years ago next week. Our commitment to it remains as firm today as it was then. It was designed to bring down the rate of inflation and to ensure a reasonable growth of demand in money terms. And it has succeeded on both counts.

We are determined to maintain steady downward pressure on inflation. It is not in the gift of any Government to eliminate short-term fluctuations along the way, but the underlying direction has to be downwards.

It is this objective which governs the desirable growth of total spending power in the economy, as measured by money GDP.

The Government's economic strategy has two key components: a monetary policy designed to bring down inflation and a supply side policy designed to improve the competitive performance of the economy.

The supply side policy is rooted in a profound conviction, born of practical experience both at home and overseas, that the way to improve economic performance and create more jobs is to encourage enterprise, efficiency and flexibility, to promote competition, deregulation and free markets: to press ahead with privatisation and to improve incentives.

The argument over which will have a bigger impact on demand, increased public expenditure or lower taxation, completely misses the point.

The case for lower taxation rests on supply side policy: lower taxes will help to enhance incentives, eliminate distortions, improve the use of resources and heighten the spirit of enterprise.

The great mistake of postwar demand management, which still has some devotees today, was to react to rising unemployment by injecting more money into the system, whether through the Budget or through the banks. So far from halting the upward trend of unemployment, this simply generated runaway inflation. That course we will not follow. (Conservative cheers)

A policy for demand expressed unambiguously in terms of money provides a further important advantage, for it ensures that wage restraint will provide more jobs. I repeat today the undertaking I gave the National Economic Development Council last month: the medium-term financial strategy is as firm a guarantee against inadequate money demand as it is against excessive money demand.

Within the MTFS, the central role is played by monetary policy, for it is by controlling the growth of money in the economy that the Govenment is able to influence the growth of money demand.

Last year I set target ranges of 4-8 per cent for narrow money and 6-10 per cent for broad money. Over the 12 months to mid-February, the targeted measure of narrow money grew at around the middle of its range, and that of broad money at just below the top of its range.

For next year I shall be retaining the same two target aggregates. I attach equal importance to both. The target ranges for 1985-86 will be those indicated in last year's MTFS – that is to say, a reduction in monetary growth of 1 per cent in each case.

There are those who argue that if we stick to sound internal policies the exchange rate can be left to take care of itself. In the long run that may well be true. But significant movements in the exchange rate, whatever their cause, can have a short-term impact on the general price level and on inflationary expectations. This process can acquire a momentum of its own, making sound internal policies harder to implement. So benign neglect is not an option.

That is why I have repeatedly argued that it is necessary to take the exchange rate into account in judging monetary conditions. There is no mechanical formula which enables us to balance the appropriate combination of the exchange rate and domestic monetary growth needed to keep financial policy on track. But a balance still has to be struck, and struck in a way that takes no chances with inflation.

For there can be no doubt about the Government's commitment to maintain monetary conditions that will continue to bring down inflation. Short-term interest rates will be held at the level needed to achieve this.

While monetary policy is at the heart of the medium-term financial strategy, it needs to be buttressed by an appropriate fiscal policy.

The outturn for the public sector borrowing requirement for 1983-84 was £9¾ billion, or 3¼ per cent of GDP. In my Budget last year I planned to reduce it substantially in 1984-85 to £7¼ billion, or 2¼ per cent of GDP. In the event, this year's PSBR looks like turning out a £10½ billion, or 3¼ per cent of GDP – the same as last year.

All but £1½ billion of this substantial overrun is directly attributable to the cost of the coal strike. I believe it was right to meet the large but once-for-all cost of keeping the economy going throughout the coal strike by borrowing, thus in effect spreading the cost over a number of years. But it is now necessary to return to the path I outlined last year.

That means that the PSBR for the coming year, 1985-86, will be set at £7 billion, equivalent to 2 per cent of GDP. As this year, some £3 billion will be financed through National Savings.

I have been urged by some to provide for a still lower borrowing requirement in order to impress the financial markets. Others have argued that the present high level of interest rates would justify a more relaxed fiscal stance.

There is nothing sacrosanct about the precise mix of monetary and fiscal policies required to meet the objectives of the medium-term financial strategy. But this is not the year to make adjustments in either direction. The wisest course is to stick to our preannounced path.

This means that, for the coming year, a substantial reduction in the PSBR must take precedence over our objectives for reducing the burden of tax.

Given the need to ensure that the Budget deficit is of a size that can and will be soundly financed, lower taxes can only be achieved by maintaining the firmest possible control of public expenditure.

Controlling public expenditure is one of the most difficult tasks facing any democratic government in the modern world. Public expenditure acquires its own momentum and creates its own vested interests. To control it requires constant vigilance, and a determination to succeed despite the inevitable setbacks.

We have that determination, and have succeeded in bringing the growth of public spending below that of the economy as a whole. This achievement has required difficult decisions in successive public expenditure reviews.

But there is no benefit to sound economic management or effective control from sticking to public expenditure figures which subsequent events have made unattainable.

As the Chief Secretary (Mr Peter Rees) made plain in the recent debate on the public expenditure White Paper, the normal pre-Budget review of the fiscal prospect has had to take account of changes in the economic scene since the public expenditure review in the autumn.

Of these, the most important has been the coal strike, whose public expenditure cost in 1984-85 is estimated at some £2½ billion – about £1 billion more than allowed for in both the autumn statement and the public expenditure White Paper, which explicitly assumed that the strike would end at Christmas. There will also be some further cost in 1985-86.

It now looks as if this year's public expenditure planning total will be exceeded by nearly £3½ billion, of which over two-thirds is attributable to the coal strike.

But quite apart from the coal strike, the upward pressures on public spending remain intense, not least from increased take-up of social security benefits and further local authority overspending. In addition, since the White Paper was prepared, we have had to accommodate the effects of higher interest rates and a lower exchange rate.

I have therefore reassessed the adequacy of the Reserves for 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 provided in the January White Paper. In order to provide a more realistic basis on which to plan and control the level of public spending, I have judged it prudent to add £2 billion to the reserve and thus to the White Paper planning totals for each of the three years. At the same time, I have further increased the estimate for debt interest in each year.

These increases in the size of the reserve will raise the planning totals for the next three years by about 1½ per cent. But let there be no misunderstanding. The totals still represent a tough target. No extra cash has been allocated to individual programmes. Calls on the Reserve will still be judged on the strictest criteria. There is no slackening in our determination to curb the size of the public sector.

Public expenditure will continue to fall as a proportion of GDP, as it has, the coal strike apart, since 1981-82. Expenditure is planned to stay broadly flat in real terms at about this year's level, excluding the costs of the coal strike. To achieve even these new figures, future public expenditure surveys will have to be at least as tough as their predecessors; and there can be no let-up in the tight control of individual spending programmes within the cash limits set for the coming year.

On the other side of the public accounts, tax receipts, too, are now expected to be higher over the next three years, partly for related reasons. But not by as much. The scope I have for tax cuts this year is therefore only half the amount I indicated might be available in my statement to the House in November. In other words, the net effect after indexation of the measures I shall shortly announce will be to contribute some £¾ billion to the £7 billion borrowing requirement I have set for 1985-86.

EMPLOYMENT

The Strategy for jobs

In determining the nature of those measures, within the overall framework of the medium-term financial strategy, my overriding objective has been to improve the prospect for jobs.

It is important to be clear what this means. Jobs are created by firms that are competitive, efficient, profitable and well-managed. This in turn requires a workforce with the right skills, one that is adaptable, reliable, motivated and prepared to work at wages that employers can afford to pay.

The extent to which Government – let alone a single Budget – can brign this about is clearly limited. We cannot instantly inculcate the spirit of enterprise by Act of Parliament, or abolish latter-day Luddism overnight simply by adding a few more pages to the statute book.

We cannot even prevent trade unions from pricing their members out of jobs. Last year, despite a further encouraging growth in productivity, wage costs per unit of manufacturing output rose by some 4 per cent. In the United States, Germany and Japan, unit wage costs actually feel. This is bad for our competitiveness and bad for jobs.

Too much of the benefit fo economic growth is currently being enjoyed in higher living standards for those in work: too little in the form of better job prospects for those out of work. In a free society, the remedy lies in the hands of those responsible for collective bargaining throughout the economy.

But limited though the role of Government is, it remains an important one. To prepare the ground in which enterprise can best flourish. To remove obstacles to the effective working of markets in general and the labour market in particular.

To correct the deficiencies in our education and training that make it hard for industry and individuals to adapt to change. To construct a pattern of taxation that does least damage to incentives; and in particular does least to deter people from taking jobs at wages that businesses can afford.

We have made progress on all these points. Inevitably, it takes time for the effects to come through. That is not surprising: attitudes and behaviour acquired over decades cannot be changed overnight. And there is much still to be done.

But there is no short cut. If it were possible to create jobs simply by boosting Government borrowing and Government spending there would be no unemployment in the world today, for nothing is easier for a Government than to borrow and spend. Impatience is a bad counsellor.

In setting financial policy for the year ahead I have had one object in mind: the continuing reduction of inflation.

Equally, in deciding my individual Budget proposals within that overall framework, I have sought throughout to make those changes that will do most to promote enterprise and employment.

Our attack on the evil of unemployment is clear, coherent and strong. My Budget today represents a further step along the road we have been taking since 1979. It will help us to ensure that more new jobs are created and that they will be jobs that last.

TRAINING

YTS scheme expanded

I begin with some measures directly related to employment and training.

One of the most long-standing problems in this country is our failure to prepare our school-leavers adequately for work. Since it was first launched in 1983, the Youth Training Scheme has proved to be a very successful bridge between school and work. It has also helped to make young people's pay expectations more realistic.

But too many trainees are still reluctant to accept rates of pay which reflect their inexperience, and too many employers still fail to recognise that training is an investment in their own commercial interest. This is in marked contrast to our major competitors overseas.

The Government has therefore decided to promote a substantial expansion of the Youth Training Scheme. Provided employers contribute a major share of the cost, the Goverment is prepared to provide further funds to launch this new initiative, over and above the existing £800 million a year of public expenditure on the YTS. The expanded scheme would offer places lasting two years for 16-year-old and one year for 17-year-old school-leavers, leading to a recognized qualification.

The main aim of all this is a better qualified workforce. It would also be a major step towards our objective of ensuring that every youngster under the age of 18 will either be in full-time education, in a job, or receiving training, with unemployment no longer an option. But first we have to get the expanded scheme in place. It will require the active co-operation of employers, trade unions and school leavers, which I am confident will be forthcoming.

The existing YTS provides foundation training and preparation for work. The expanded scheme will also involve occupational training for both the employed and the unemployed, geared to the needs of business and industry. In the long run, we expect employers to meet the full cost, as those in other countries do. But I recognize that such a major change in attitudes may take time. I am therefore prepared to set aside a fixed sum in public funds to launch this new initiative and get it moving in the right direction.

The Secretary of State for Employment (Mr Tom King) will be arranging consultations through the Manpower Services Commission about the quality of the training, the share of the cost to be borne by employers, and the level of trainee allowances. We aim to complete these consultations by the end of June so that a second year will be available for as many as possible of the 16-year-olds leaving school this year.

Provided the outcome is satisfactory, I have undertaken to increase the Department of Employment's programme by £125 million in 1987-88. This expenditure will be partly offset by savings in social security payments and the ending of the Young Workers Scheme which will close for applications at the end of March 1986.

I am also providing the MSC with an additional £20 million in 1986-87 to finance a programme of appropriate in-service teacher training courses.

It has become increasingly evident that our output of graduates in high technology disciplines is not keeping pace with the expanding needs of industry. The Secretary of State for Education and Science (Sir Michael Joseph) will therefore be announcing later today a special programme, costing around £40 million over the next three years, to provide additional places in engineering and technology at selected higher education institutions.

In this case, the cost will be met from within existing pubic expenditure programmes.

While school-leavers are catered for by the Youth Training Scheme, there remains the problem of the long-term unemployed genuinely seeking work. Under the Community Programme, local authorities and voluntary bodies provide temporary work for the long-term unemployed on projects of community benefit. This scheme, which at present provides 130,000 places, has proved its worth, with a significant proportion of those who leave it going on to other jobs.

I have therefore agreed to make funds available to provide an additional 100,000 Community Programme places by June 1986. These places will be for 18 to 24-year-olds who have been unemployed for over a year.

To accommodate this, the Department of Employment's programme will be further increased by £140 million in 1985-86 and £460 million in 1986-87.

To an even greater extent than with the YTS, the net public expenditure cost will be substantially less than the gross cost because of savings on social security benefits. The net addition to public expenditure as a result of all the proposals I have just announced will be £75 million in 1985-86, £300 million in 1986-87, and £400 million in 1987-88.

We also need to do more to remove legislation impediments to the effective working of the labour market. However well intentioned, these can only lead to fewer jobs. Accordingly, the Secretary of State for Employment will be extending to all employers the provisions on unfair dismissal which currently apply to small firms. The qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims will thus become two years for all new employees.

This is a reasonable period of time and should lessen the reluctance of some employers to take on new people.

In addition, Mr Tom King will be issuing a consultative document about the future of the Wages Councils later this week. Wages Councils destroy jobs by making it illegal for employers to offer work at wages they can afford and the unemployed are prepared to accept. This applies in particular to small employers and to youngsters looking for their first job. The document will cover a number of proposals for radical change, including complete abolition.

TAX REFORM

Green Paper coming

I now turn to taxation. This Budget carries forward the theme of tax reform I set out last year. Reform designed to make life a little simpler for the taxpayer. And above all reform designed to improve our economic performance over the longer term, on which the jobs of the future will depend.

In my budget last year I announced a radical reform on the corporation tax system. This had been preceded by the green paper on corporation tax issued by my predecessor in 1982.

I am satisfied that the right way to proceed with major tax reform is to issue a green paper first, as a basis for full and informed discussion, followed by legislation when the results of that discussion have been fully digested.

I therefore propose to issue a Green Paper later this year on the reform of personal income tax.

The computerisation of PAYE makes this the right time to review the system of personal taxation, most of the work will be complete by the end of 1987 and the full range of facilities will be available by 1989. The Green Paper will therefore discuss a range of options opened up by computerisation, from non-cumulation to closer integration between the tax and benefit systems, and including in particular a reform of the present system of personal allowances.

It is the Government's firm policy to reduce the burden of income tax. But we need to make sure that the reliefs we can afford are concentrated where they will do most good.

The present structure of personal income tax is far from satisfactory. Too many young people start paying tax at too low a level. And too many families find themselves in the poverty and unemployment traps. The system discriminates against the family in which the wife stays at home to look after the children. It denies to the partners in a marriage the independence and privacy in their tax affairs which they have a right to expect.

There is therefore a strong case from changing to a new system of personal allowances more sutied to today's economic and social needs. Under this, everyone, man or woman, married or single, would have the same standard allowance. But if either a wife or a husband were unable to make full use of their allowance, the unused protion could be transferred, of they so wished, to their partner.

This reform would produce a more logical and straightforward system. Far more people could be taken out of the poverty and unemployment traps, and indeed taken out of tax althogether, for a given sum or overall tax relief than is possible under the present system. It would end the present discrimination against the family where the wife feels it right to stay at home, which increasingly nowadays means discrimination against the family with young children.

Husbands and wives would each be taxed separately on their own income irrespective of the income of the other. The aggregation for tax purposes of a wife's earned income and investment income with her husband's would end, thus removing what has become an increasing source of resentment among women.

The Green Paper will set out full details of he proposals I have just outlined, as a basis for public discussion.

After an appropriate period for consultation, it would be possible to legislate in 1987 and have a system on these lines in place by the end of the decade.

There is also a case for changing the tax treatment of pension funds, as part of a thorough-going reform of the tax treatment of personal savings generally. Any fundamental reform of this kind would, in the same way, need to be preceded by the publication of a Green Paper.

The House will, I am sure, be interested to learn that I have no such Green Paper in mind.

Nor, indeed, dispite the unparalleled pre-Budget agitation do any of the detailed proposals in my Budget affect the tax-deductability of pension fund contrubutions, the tax-free nature of pension fund income and capital gains, or the anomalous but much-loved tax-free lump sum.

Meanwhile, I have a number of other important proposals for tax reform to announce today, which will both simplify the system and encourage enterprise.

First, Capital Gains Tax, last year I was unable to do anything about the acknowledged defects of this tax, notably its combination of unfairness and complexity, and undertook to come back to it this year. This I do now.

I have decided that the right way to reform Capital Gains Tax is to build on the important change made by my predecessor three years ago, when he introduced the 1982 indexation relief.

That relief, valuable though it is, and increasingly valuable as it will become, suffers from three serious limitation.

First, indexation does not cover the first 12 months of the ownership of an asset. This provision was introduced to discourage the short term conversion of income into capital. But it has made tax very much more complicated for the taxpayer. I am now in a position to remedy this defect.

CAPITAL GAINS

12 month rule abolished

I announced last month measures to put an end to the practice known as bondwashing, the principal device for converting income into less heavily taxed capital gains. Having done that, I propose to abolish the 12 month rule. So far as most disposals are concerned, this will take effect from April 6. In the case of certain fixed interest securities, however, the rule will need to remain in being until the anti-bondwashing provisions take effect on February 28, 1986.

Second, the indexation does not at present extend to losses. I propose to remove this restriction.

Third, the present indexation provision unfairly discriminates against those who acquired their assets prior to 1982. For them the allowance is based not on the 1982 value of the asset but on its original cost. I now propose to remedy this injustice.

The indexation allowance will henceforth be based on March 1982 values. Capital gains made prior to 1982 will still not be indexed, of course; but at least all purely inflationary gains made since that date will now be free of tax, irrespective of when the asset was acquired.

This three-pronged reform of capital gains tax will produce a fairer tax, make life simpler for the taxpayer, help the efficient working of the capital markets, relieve the burden of family businesses and encourage risk-taking and enterprise. Combined with the statutory indexation of the exempt amount, which will rise in 1985-86 to £5,900, these changes will remove some 15,000 taxpayers from liability altogether.

Increasingly the tax will be levied on real and not inflationary gains. With these reforms, I believe the tax is now on a broadly acceptable and sustainable basis.

The combined cost of the threefold reform I have announced is £155 million in a full year; but none of it falls in 1985-86.

I turn next to the stamp duties. Following widespread consultation, I have decided that the time has come to simplify and modernise these ancient duties. I propose in this Budget to sweep away 15 separate duties, including the contract note duty and the 1 per cent duty on gifts. Altogether, the changes I am proposing should reduce by over 40 per cent the number of documents which require to be stamped.

My final proposal for reform concerns development land tax. This is a particularly complex tax, which was introduced in response to the problem of soaring land values at a time of high inflation. Its chief practical effect is to discourage the bringing forward of land for development.

This disincentive effect will grow as the gap widens between the 60 per cent rate of development land tax and a corporation tax rate which is on the way down to 35 per cent.

I have therefore decided to abolish development land tax altogether, with immediate effect. At the same time I propose to cancel all deferred charges under the tax. The net cost will be some £20 million in 1985-86 and £50 million in a full year. This compares, incidentally, with a collection cost of some £5 million a year.

Development gains will of course continue to be subject to income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax, in the same way as any other income or capital gains.

The abolition of development land tax will, I am sure, be especially welcomed by the building and construction industry. It will also remove no fewer than 200 pages of highly complex legislation from the statute book.

This follows the abolition of the national insurance surcharge and the investment income surcharge in last year's Budget. Three unwanted taxes swept away in two years.

BUSINESSES

Research allowances

I now turn to other aspects of business taxation. It cannot be repeated too often that it is businesses and not Governments that create jobs. The Government's responsibility is to foster the conditions which will encourage businesses to grow and create more jobs. The measures I have to announce are designed with that end in view.

First, corporation tax. The reforms I announced last year set out a new and improved framework of business taxation for the remainder of this Parliament and beyond. So this year I have only limited changes to make: A full list is of course contained in the Red Book.

As I promised last year, I have reviewed the scientific research allowance. Given the particular importance of expenditure on research and development if British industry is to hold its own in a competitive world, I have decided, exceptionally, not to reduce this allowance in line with the changes in the other capital allowances. A few minor changes apart, the scientific research allowance will remain at 100 per cent.

I have also decided to modify the new capital allowance system as it applies to short life assets while the new structure of capital allowances enables most plant and machinery to be written off over a period that more than fairly reflects its useful life. I accept that there is a problem with those assets which enjoy only a short life, in particular high technology assets.

Accordingly, from next year, a business will be able to exclude from its general pool of capital expenditure any asset which it believes will have only a short life; so that if the asset is subsequently scrapped after, say, four years, it will be fully written off for tax over that period. I believe that this change will be widely welcomed. The benefit to business could rise to about £300 million in the early 1990s.

I now turn to a number of other detailed measures affecting business.

The number of employee share schemes has increased from 30 when we first took office in 1979 to some 850 today. The wholehearted commitment of employees to the success of the companies in which they work is vital to our country's economic future. To maintain, and build on this progress I propose to reduce the retention period for profit sharing schemes from seven years to five.

I propose to take action to deal with tax avoidance by partnerships, following the consultative document issued last year.

In my last Budget I removed a competitive disadvantage to British manufacturers by levying VAT on imports. I have decided to modify the new regime in two respects.

First, I propose to relieve from VAT certain goods which are imported into this country solely for repair, or for processing which does not change their identity, and are then re-exported to their owners overseas. Second, goods which are temporarily exported from the UK and then reimported after repair or processing abroad, will bear VAT only on the value of the repair or processing. These reliefs will take effect on June 1 and have a once-for-all cost in 1985-86 of £30 million.

I propose to introuce secondary legislation to remove the constraint imposed by the Bankng Act which at present prevents companies from financing themselves by a series of issues of short-term securities. This should provide a useful alternative to bank borrowing.

I have no major new proposals this year on the taxation of North Sea oil. I have reviewed the economics of incremental investment in existing fields, but I have not been persuaded that there is a case for introducing new fiscal reliefs at this stage.

My only proposal for change, apart from some minor technical measures, is to remove immediate petroleum revenue tax relief for onshore exploration an appraisal expenditure. Onshore activities are sufficiently low-cost not to need this special incentive.

In last year's Budget statement I mentioned the Government's concern at the spread of unitary taxation within the United States, and the threat that this posed to the US subsidiaries of British companies. Since then, I am gald to note that several American states have abolished unitary taxation: but in others, notably California, no change has yet been made.

We shall continue to press for action to be taken ths year, and fully support the campaign being waged by the CBI and others on this issue.

Finally, I turn to a group of measures of particular importance to smaller businesses and the self-employed, a sector of the economy where an increasing proportion of the jobs of the future is likely to be found.

I have already announced a substantial reform of the capital gains tax. In addition, I propose to implement many of the proposals contained in last year's consultative document on capital gains tax retirement relief, notably to reduce the age for full relief to 60 and to extend relief to those who are obliged by ill-health to retire before that age.

This relief is particularly important to the proprietors of small businesses concerned at the capital gains tax they might have to pay when they come to sell their business on retirement.

Although the business expansion scheme has been in existence only two years, it has already made an impressive contribution to the promotion and growth of new businesses. Last year almost 20,000 people took advantage of the tax reliefs offered by the business expansion scheme to invest some £100 million in more than 500 companies. Over half of this went to provide equity capital for new businesses.

I have two changes to propose. The scheme was designed to encourage investment by individuals in new and expanding businesses in risk areas.

Accordingly, I propose to include within the scheme companies formed to carry out research and development. By the same token I propose to exclude from the scheme certain ventures which primarily involve property development. Building and construction will, of course, continue to be a qualifying trade.

Last year I undertook to review the scope of VAT relief for bad debts, which is a matter of considerable concern to small businesses. In the light of legislation now proceeding in the House of Lords on the reform of the insolvency law, I propose to widen the scope of the existing relief. The new rules will take effect as soon as the provisions of the Insolvency Bill are implemented and will cost some £25 million in a full year.

I propose to increase the VAT threshold to £19,500 from midnight tonight.

Over the past five years the ranks of the self-employed have risen by well over half a million or some 30 per cent. And the growth in self-employment has been a particularly marked feature of the encouraging growth in overall employment that has occurred since the spring of 1983.

But the self-employed suffer from one long-standing grievance so far as tax is concerned. While the National Insurance contribution paid by an employee cannot be set against tax, the National Insurance contribution paid by the employer on the employee's behalf can. Yet none of the National Insurance contribution paid by the self-employed can be set against tax at all.

Today I propose to remedy this grievance. As from April 6, tax relief will be allowed for half the graduated Class 4 National Insurance contribution paid by the self-employed.

EXCISE DUTIES

6p put on cigarettes

In addition I have agreed with the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Norman Fowler) that, as from the beginning of October, the flat rate Class 2 National Insurance contribution payable by the self-employed will be reduced from £4.75 to £3.50 a week. The benefit of these reliefs to the self-employed will be £55 million in 1985-86 and £155 million in a full year.

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Opposition keeps Chancellor waiting

Mr Lawson's Budget statement was held up for 10 minutes by Labour backbenchers who forced a division over the introduction of a Bill by Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) to make the Chancellor of the Exchequer more accountable to Parliament on budgetary matters.

Labour MPs provided tellers for both the "ayes" and the "noes" lobbies as Mr Lawson, the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet sat waiting on the Treasury bench. Mr Canavan's Bill was carried by 103 votes to 4 – a majority of 99.

Mr Canavan said to laughter: I am pleased to see such a good attendance for the first reading of the Bill. I hope I get a similar attendance at second reading.

The Chancellor had been getting away with economic murder. He was a record breaking chancellor. He had probably broken more records than Kenny Dalglish except that Mr Lawson was in the habit of scoring own goals.

He had presided over record unemployment, a record deficit in manufacturing trade, a record low value of the pound, record interest rates, record bankruptcies, and a record £3 billion of taxpayers' money spent in a 12 month vendetta against the miners.

The economy of this country (he said) has been reduced to an absolute shambles by an incompetent Chancellor who has the brass neck to tell us to pull in our belts while he seems to get plumper and smugger. He does not seem to be practising the austerity of the monetarist policies which he preaches.

The Bill would provide for greater pre-Budget and post-Budget scrutiny. The Chancellor would have to come to the House with a quarterly report.

It is right to concentrate most of the limited resources at my disposal on raising starting points for tax

PARLIAMENT

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March 19, 1985

Higher tax thresholds and radical reform of NI contributions

Continued from page 10

All this adds up to a substantial package of measures to help small business and the self-employed, which I am sure the whole House will welcome.

I turn now to the taxation of **personal income and spending. By Budget last year shifted some of the burden of personal taxation from earnings to spending. Today I** *propose to make a further move in* **this direction.**

Accordingly, I propose to increase the revenue from the excise duties by rather more than is required simply to keep pace with inflation – a less painful task now that inflation is relatively low.

I propose to increase the duty on cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco by the equivalent, including VAT, of six pence on a packet of 20 cigarettes. This will take effect from midnight on Thursday. I do not, however, propose any increase at all *in the duties on cigars and pipe* **tobacco.**

I propose increases which, including VAT, will put between a penny and two pence a pint on most beer (depending on its strength); a penny a pint on cider; six pence on a bottle of table wine and about ten pence a bottle on sparkling or fortified wine.

In recognition of the current difficulties of the Scotch whisky industry, however, I propose to increase the duty on spirits by only ten pence a bottle, well below the amount needed to keep pace with inflation. All these changes take effect from midnight tonight.

I propose to increase the duty on petrol and derv by amounts which, including VAT, will raise the price at the pumps by approximately four pence and three pence halfpenny a gallon respectively. This does no more than keep pace with inflation. These increases will take effect from 6 o'clock this evening. As last year, I do not propose any change in the duty on heavy fuel oil.

I do propose this year, however, to raise more revenue from the vehicle excise duty. For cars and light vans the duty will go up by £10 to £100. On the advice of the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Nicholas Ridley) the pattern of duty on lorries will be changed to correspond more closely to the amount of wear and tear they cause to the roads. While there will be substantial increases in duty for some of the heaviest rigid lorries, for most lorries, for most lorries the rates will remain unchanged.

These changes in the excise duties will, all told, raise an extra £820 million in 1985-86, which is some £235 million more than is required to keep pace with inflation. The overall impact effect on the RPI of these changes will be one half of one per cent. This has already been taken into account in the forecast I have given the House of 5 per cent inflation by the end of the year.

ONE VAT CHANGE

Then no more extensions

I have followed whith some interest the speculation that has built up over recent months about my alleged intention for VAT. Most of it – such as the so-called proposal to levy VAT on books – has concerned matters which have not even been under consideration. But to have evealed this prematurely would not have stilled speculation: it would merely have concentrated it on those matters that were under consideration – a practice that no Chancellor, rightly, has sought to encourage.

I can now inform the House that, apart from one change I shall be proposing today, I do not intend to make any further extensions of the VAT base during the lifetime of this Parliament, this is, of course, a field in which European Community law has to be reckoned with and where we are bound by our treaty obligations. But as the house will be aware, where we are currently under challenge, there we are vigorously fighting our case.

The one extension I propose to make concerns newspapers and magazines, at present, while all other advertising is taxed, newspaper and magazine advertising is not. There is no justification for this anomaly. It is one thing to maintain that newspapers and magazines should not be liable to VAT: quite another to argue that those who advertise in them should enjoy a similar immunity.

Accordingly, I propose that from 1 May newspaper and magazine advertising shold be subject to VAT. This wil raise £30 million in 1985-86 ***and £50 million in a full year.***

I also propose to change the VAT treatment of credit cards and similar payment cards – a part of the financial sector which has enjoyed exceptional growth over the past few years. I propose that from May 1 transactions between the companies providing the cards and the outlets which accept them should be classified as exempt. This means that the companies will not be able to recover VAT in respect of such transactions.

In respect of such transactions. This will raise £15 million in 1985-86 and £20 million in a full year. It should not directly affect the charges made to card holders.

I also have a modest VAT concession to make. I have decided to extend the existing VAT relief for medical or scientific equipment bought with donated funds for use in hospitals and the like to cover computer equipment for certain medical uses. Customs and Excise will be announcing the precise details of the relief, which will take effect from May 1.

Following extensive consultations, I propose to include in this year's Finance Bill legislation to implement most of the recommendations of the first two volumes of the Keith report on the enforcement powers of the Revenue departments, including measures to deal with the problem of the late payment of VAT.

This is expected to bring in extra revenue of about £50 million in 1985-86. By 1988-89 there will have been a cumulative once-for-all revenue gain of about £600 million. Proposals on the Inland Revenue aspects of the Keith report will follow in next year's Finance Bill.

The VAT changes I have just proposed will bring in £90 million in 1985-86, rising eventually to £215 million in a full year. They will have no impact on the RPI. The additional revenue raised from the excise duties and VAT taken together will help me to lighten the burden of income tax.

INCOME TAX

Scales for company cars

Before turning to income tax, I should briefly mention capital transfer tax. Since 1979 the burden of this tax has been very significantly reduced, and I propose to maintain that position this year by raising the threshold and rate bands set last year in line with statutory indexation.

In addition, I propose to widen the scope of the existing exemption for amenity land surrounding a house of outstanding heritage quality. I am sure that this will be welcomed by all those concerned with the preservation of our national heritage.

I now turn to income tax. On April 6th, the banks will move over to the composite rate system for the payment of tax on bank interest. I now need to legislate to put the corresponding composite rate payment by building societies on a similar footing, starting next year.

This will not produce any additional revenue. As an administrative saving, I also propose to legislate this year to bring new loans above the mortgage interest relief ceiling into the MIRAS system by April 1987. The ceiling itself will remain at £30,000 for 1985-86.

I need to set the 1986-87 car benefit scales for those whose employers provide them with the use of a car. As last year, I propose to increase both the car and fuel scales by 10 per cent with effect from April 1986. This will still leave the scale levels well short of the true value of the benefit.

To give further help to charities, I propose to increase from £5,000 to £10,000 the limit to which relief at the highter rates of tax is allowed for covenants.

I now turn to my main income tax proposals. I propose to make no change this year in the rates of income tax. Once again, I believe it is right to concentrate most of the limited resources at my disposal on raising the starting point for tax. Increases in the basic tax thresholds benefit all taxpayers, but they give proportionately more help to those on low incomes.

This year, a Budget for jobs and for enterprise has to give high priority to raising the tax thresholds.

The statutory indexation formula means that I should increase all the principal income tax allowances and bands by 4.6 per cent, the increase in the RPI over the year to last December, rounded up. For the higher rate threshold and bands I propose this year to do just that.

The first higher rate of £16,200 and the top rate of 60 per cent will apply to taxable income above £40,200.

For the basic thresholds I can do more. Statutory indexation would imply an increase in the single person's allowance of £100. I propose in increase it by precisely twice as much – £200 – from £2,005 to £2,205. statutory indexation would imply an increase in the married man's allowance of £150. Again, I propose to raise it by precisely twice as much – £300 – from £3,155 to £3,455.

I propose to increase the age allowance this year by the same cash amount as the corresponding basic allowances, thus the single age allowance will rise by £200 from £2,490 to £2,690 and the married age allowance will go up by £300 from £3,955 to £4,255.

These increases mean that most single people will enjoy an income tax cut of at least £1.15 a week and most married couples an income tax cut of at least £1.73 a week, some 800,000 people on low incomes – 100,000 of them widows – who would have paid tax if thresholds had not been increased, will pay no tax at all in 1985-86.

That is almost twice as many would have been taken out of tax had the allowances merely been indexed.

The income tax changes I have announced today will take effect under PAYE on the first pay day after May 17, their cost is considerable: £1.6 billion in 1985-86, of which roughly half represents the cost of indexation.

The increase in the basic allowances of almost 10 per cent or some 5 per cent in real terms, means that for 1985-86 they will be more than 20 per cent higher in real terms than they were in 1978-79, Labour's last year.

Immediate response: Kinnock: Chancellor travelling in circles. Knox: Welcome news on VAT. MacKenzie: People concerned about jobs. Glyn: Foundation for growth.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Improving job prospects

I have one last proposal to make. I have already set out the broad lines of the government's strategy to improve the prospects for jobs. I have described a number of measures to improve training, remove legislative barriers to employment, and stimulate enterprise: and I have also raised tax thresholds substantially for the second year running. But I want to do more to improve job prospects for young people and the unskilled, among whom the problem of unemployment is most severe.

I have concluded that an effective response to this problem must include direct action in two related areas – to cut the costs of employing the young and unskilled, and to sharpen their own incentive to work at wages which employers can afford to pay.

I am therefore proposing, in collaboration with the Secretary of State for Social Services, a radical reform of the structure of national insurance contributions. The essential features of the contributory principle will be preserved.

The changes will affect both employers' and employees' contributions.

Given the limited resources at my disposal, I cannot affort this year to make a further substantial reduction in the overall burden of employment costs, following the abolution of the national insurance surcharge in last year's Budget. I therefore propose to abolish the upper earnings limit for the employer's national insurance contribution, which for 1985-86 has been set at £265 a week.

Under exisiting arrangements, an employer pays in national insurance the same cash sum, which for the coming year would be roughly £28 a week, for employees above the upper earnings limit, regardless of whether the employee is paid £15,000 or £50,000. Under the new and arguably fairer scheme I am now proposing, the employer's liability will be the same flat 10.45 per cent of earnings as at present applies below the upper earnings limit.

The £800 million raised by this change in a full year enables me to make a substantial reduction in the cost of employing people at the lower end of the earnings scale. There, instead of the uniform 10.45 per cent I propose to introduce a system of graduated rates.

As now, there will be no national insurance payable for those earning below the lower earnings limit, which for 1985-86 has been set at £35.50 a week, broadly in line with the single person's pension.

But for employees earning between this and £55 a week, the employer will in future have to pay only 5 per cent instead of 10.45 per cent: for employees earning between £55 a week and £90 a week the new rate for employers will be 7 per cent: and for those earning between £90 and £130 a week the employer will pay 9 per cent. The full employers' rate of 10.45 per cent will apply only for those earning over £130 a week.

These changes represent substantial reductions in the cost of employing the lower paid. They will significantly improve the flexibility of the labour market and the prospects for jobs.

I recognize that employers cannot be expected to welcome the increased cost of employing higher paid workers, but for business and industry as a whole the increase in the cost of the higher paid will be fully offset – indeed more than offset – by the reduced cost of employing lower paid workers.

Moreover I propose to introduce a similar system of graduated national insurance contribution rates for the employees themselves at the lower end of the earnings scale. At present, those earning more than the lower earnings limit pay a flat rate of 9 per cent on total earnings up to the upper earnings limit and nothing on any amount they may earn above that limit.

This system makes national insurance contributions a particularly heavy burden for the low paid.

I propose that, in future, those earning between £35.50 and £55 a week pay at the rate of 5 per cent and those earning between £55 and £90 a week will be liable to the full 9 per cent on their earnings.

But I do *not* propose to abolish the upper earnings limit for *employees'* contributions. It is an integral part of the contributory system on which their benefit entitlement is based. Moreover, if it were abolished, those on the higher rates of income tax would face unacceptably high combined marginal rates taking into account liability to both tax and national insurance contributions.

The changes I have proposed represent a substantial reduction in the burden of national insurance contributions on lowe paid employees. In addition, as I have already indicated, I propose a corresponding reduction in the contributions paid by the self-employed, the flat rate Class 2 contributions will be reduced from £4.75 to £3.50 a week.

The Secretary of State for Social Services will include legislation to give effect to this restructuring of national insurance contributions in the Social Security Bill now before Parliament and I expect the new rates to take effect from the beginning of October.

I should make it clear that these changes are not intended to affect benefit rights, and new rules will be introduced to protect those rights. Nor will the changes affect arrangements for the contracted-out rebate.

The overall cost of these changes will be £450 million in a full year, made up of £80 million less in employers' contributions, £270 million less in employees' contributions, and £100 million less in contributions from the self-employed. In 1985-86 the total cost will be £160 million.

The effect on job prospects will, over time, be substantial. The radical restructuring I have announced will encourage employers to take on the young and unskilled, and give them, in turn, an incentive to seek work at wages that employers can afford.

The cost of employing some 8½ million people on earnings of less than £130 a week will be reduced by almost £900 million in a full year. It will cost an employer £3 a week less to employ a young person or unskilled worker at just below £90 a week.

And the take-home pay of some 3½ million people with earnings up to this level will be further increased, on top of the significant real increases in income tax thresholds I have already announced. A single youngster on just under £90 a week will pay about £1.80 a week less in national insurance on top of the reduction in his income tax bill of £1.15 a week – an overall increase in take-home pay of almost £3 a week.

The reduction in the total burden on the low paid – income tax plus employers' and employees' national insurance contributions combined – is even more dramatic. For someone on £80 a week it is cut by up to 30 per cent and at £50 a week it is cut in half.

These are changes of a major order. They amount to a direct and powerful attack on disincentives to employment. They tackle the problem of unemployment where it is most acute. They complete my Budget for jobs.

CONCLUSION

Maintenance of sound money

In this Budget I have reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the defeat of inflation through the maintenacne of sound money. I have made further radical proposals for taxation and national insurance, and abolished outright a third tax.

In collaboration the Secretaries of State for Employment, Education and Social Services I have proposed a coherent and wide-ranging set of measures to promote new jobs. I commend this Budget to the House.

In Labour's manifesto

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, said it was the custom that the Chancellor be congratulated on his budget. Any Chancellor that was able to cut down on the time of delivery from last year to a new low of 1hr 12min this year certainly deserved congratulations.

There were some aspects of the budget which immediately required commendation, like the way in which Mr Lawson had relented on his changes in capital allowances.

Mr Lawson would receive support for making life easier for the self-employed who had to retire early through ill-health.

We would like to commend him, (he said) for the changes he has made in respect of national insurance contributions both by the employers and employees.

The cheers when Mr Lawson announced it were rather louder on the Opposition side of the House than the Government's side. Everything he has promised to do was actually in the last Labour Party manifesto for the 1983 election.

It is a shame (he went on) that Mr Lawson has taken so long, despite appeals to move in that direction well before that general election. Who knows how many jobs could possibly have been saved if successive Chancellors had taken the opportunity of reducing national insurance contributions, especially after this Government had put them up by 50 per cent after coming to power in 1979?

Let us hope (he said) that that is a harbinger for much bigger actions in future effectively to deal with unemployment, because we have heard all about Budgets for jobs before. All they had seen, in fact, was a remorseless increase in unemployment to four million. On that basis this Budget, sadly, would fail Britain.

The Chancellor on the YTS, had spoken about unemployment not being an option. From this Government that was an ominous phrase, especially as the Opposition was forced to conclude that there was a strong likelihood that the Government was going to withdraw benefit entitlement from young unemployed people not suited by training schemes or who could not get work or education and, therefore, would use unemployment and the benefit to seek work.

His own father had gone to a training camp for training in the thirties: the penalty for not doing so had been withdrawal of his dole. Fifty years later it might be that youngsters of this generation were being offered the same lack of options – a reduction of their freedom. Was there to be a coercive scheme?

Mr Lawson intervened: Had I any new proposals on that front to make, they would have been contained in my Budget speech.

Mr Kinnock said any such coercion would not be tolerated by the young.

What the country needed from the Budget was expansion, opportunity, justice, enterprize and, most of all, jobs. But this stagnant Chancellor had simply given with one hand and taken away with the other and then threatened to jeopardize freedoms which had already been narrowed.

He had turned his back on millions of his fellow citizens who were unemployed or poor. He had waddled away from them and would not be forgiven for that.

There were alternatives. The Chancellor could have announced that he was prepared to provide an extra £3,500m for investment and repair in housing, roads, sewage systems, the gas and electricity supply industries, training and research and development.

The Chancellor was prepared to find £2½ billion to fight the miners, so why was he not prepared to do that to fight unemployment?

Mr Lawson was the first Chancellor to preside over a manufacturing deficit and the biggest ever fall in the level of the pound.

He is the man (he went on) that says we have a recovery when we have four million unemployed. He is the man who told this House that expenditure to fight the miners of £2½ billion was a worthwhile investment. This is the same man who will not recognize that the real cost of maintaining unemployment is the greatest single factor blocking off even his desire for growth and stability.

The result of these policies is that there are more poor people living in deeper poverty and the Chancellor is doing nothing truly effective to help them.

The higher tax thresholds and increases in pensions and benefits would not keep these people on the same level as at present because the increases in water, gas and electricity prices, in rents and rates, transport fares, prescription charges and petrol price rises would eradicate any advantages. Today, a week after the House had heard of the £2 prescription, it heard of the £2 a gallon for petrol.

Mr Lawson (he declared) is not on course. He is travelling in circles and sinking all the time. What we want is for the people of conscience and some courage that we know exist on the Conservative benches to join with us to stop Mr Lawson dragging us down with him. (Labour Cheers).

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Moorlands, C) said all MPs would welcome the fact that there was to be no change in the tax treatment of pension funds. It was unfortunate that the Chancellor did not make this apparent some time ago, so sparing ordinary people a great deal of concern.

It was welcome news that there was to be not VAT on books, newspapers and journals, children's shoes and clothes: all the items so much had been heard about in recent weeks. He had no great objection to VAT being levied on newspaper advertising, merely bringing it into line with the other forms of adverstising.

A real Budget for jobs would have aimed at a rate of growth of 6 per cent or 7 per cent which would have been sustainable for many years. That would have involved a substantial increase in the PSBR which would have been quite managable.

The Chancellor's Budget judgement had left a lot to be desired.

Mr Gregor Mackenzie (Glasgow, Rutherglen, Lab) said the Budget speech had been short in length and short in ideas. People were more concerned about jobs than about any other aspect of life. Real jobs should be created. There was no point in giving someone some sort of training only to throw them on the scrapheap. Tax cuts were of no interest to the unemployed in his constituency.

Dr Alan Glyn (Windsor and Maidenhead, C) said the Budget must be looked at as a whole. In the long-term it would lay the foundation for growth and creation of new jobs, not propping up old industries which Britain had been inclined to do rather than creating new industries in line with modern demand.

It was important to emphasize what the Chancellor said about maintaining public expenditure and, more important, control of inflation. The Chancellor had given what he had always wanted to see – a move from direct to indirect taxation.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, L) said for the Chancellor to describe it as a Budget for jobs was a joke. If it had any effect at all on unemployment it would be minimal.

He was a small businessman employing 38 people. As an employer he did not want wages councils abolished because they protected his business from unfair competition.

Wages councils ensured his competitors were required by law to pay the same minimum wage as he was. If they were abolished cowboy employers could come in last six months, employ people on ridiculously low wages, pinch his customers, and then disappear.

Anybody who imagined wages councils were enemies of employers, especially small businesses, lived in cuckoo land.

PM defends Howe's Star Wars speech

DEFENCE

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions that she disagreed with the description in *The Times* on Monday of a speech by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, on the Strategic Defence Initiative as muddled, mealy-mouthed and damaging to the Nato alliance.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L): Does she share the view of *The Times* yesterday that the speech by the Foreign Secretary on the star wars programme was muddled, mealy-mouthed and damaging to the Alliance? (Laughter)

Does she believe that that statement represented a realistic assessment of the dangers of the star wars strategy?

Mrs Thatcher: I reject the language and the conclusion in the first party of his question.

The policy was and remains in the four points set out by Camp David and reafirmed when I was in Washington, and the Foreign Secretary was speaking in pursuance of that policy.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: The four points agreed with President Reagan are rather vague in several respects. What veto has she in order to ensure that there will be no step from research into development, with all its consequent experiments without her permission and the permission of this House?

Mrs Thatcher: It is not a question of a veto. Research is permitted and constraints on deployment are those contained in the anti-ballistic missile treaty signed in 1972 both by the Soviet Union and the United States, which permitted research but required negotiation before testing and deployment in accordance with the terms of the treaty.

Mr Kinnock: Will she tell us clearly since these are matters of great importance, where she draws the line between research and development?

Mrs Thatcher: Where it is drawn by the anti-ballistic treaty.

Risk of losing jobs in chasing relativities

TEACHERS' PAY

Chasing past pay relativities would mean a return to a self-defeating inflationary spiral which would price more people into unemployment, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said during Commons questions on teachers' pay.

He stated that comparability with the pay of other groups was a recurring theme in representations made to him by teachers about their pay.

The prime factors in settling pay (he said) are the employers' capacity to pay and their need to recruit and retain teachers of appropriate quality.

Classroom disruption was not in the interests of teachers themselves, let alone of the children, and he hoped teachers would give it up.

He did not denigrate the hard work and the difficult job and dedication to duty of most teachers, but they should bear in mind that they had one of the most secure jobs in the country, that they were important and had been offered but had refused a 4 per cent pay increase and/or arbitration.

They had refused even to discuss proposals for appraisal and that could not be in their interests. The teacher unions do seem to be split.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Continuation of debate on Budget. **Lords (2.30):** Debate on Section 2 of Official Secrets Act.

Economic growth at 3.5%
Money targets unchanged
Inflation pegged

THE BUDGET

North Sea oil peaks
Balance of payments
Growth forecast

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Rate of inflation on target but interest rates forced off course

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has provided the financial framework for economic policy since 1980. It is designed to achieve falling inflation, with the ultimate objective of stable prices, *through a progressive decline in* monetary growth supported by lower public sector borrowing.

Within this framework, the economy has now been growing *steadily for nearly four years* as inflation has fallen to around 5 per cent. Productivity has risen by 11 per cent over the same period and, since early 1983, *employment* has *increased* by nearly half a million.

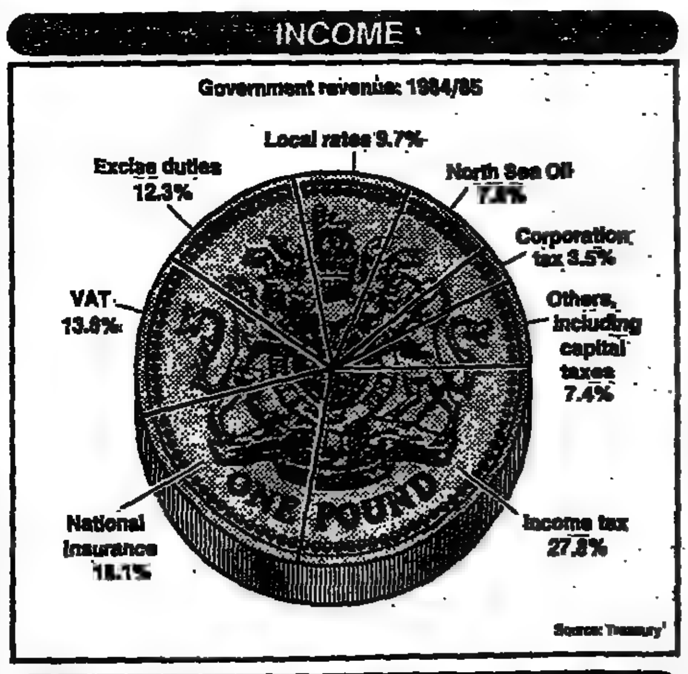
The Government will continue to encourage enterprise, efficiency and flexibility in both the public and private sectors – by *promoting* competition and the improved working of markets, by pressing ahead with privatisation and by improving incentives. Moderate pay settlements will lead to more jobs and lower employment; adherence to the *MTFS guarantees* that this moderation will not result in a reduction in overall *demand.*

During the past year, growth of the targeted narrow money *aggregate* M0 has been *near* the centre of its range. Inflation has been broadly as envisaged a year ago, and output has risen by 2½ per cent despite the coal strike. However, the PSBR and interest rates have both been higher than expected, and the exchange rate lower, particularly against a very strong dollar.

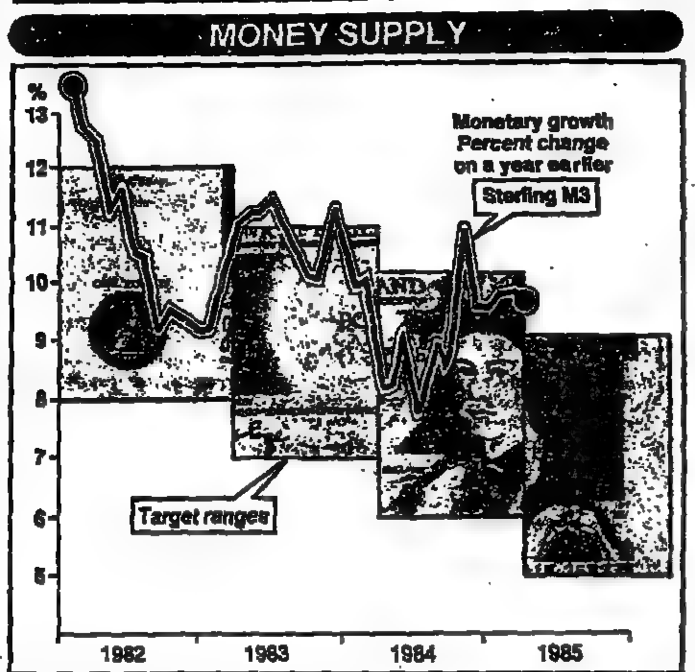
The relatively high growth of £M3 last year was associated with a combination of high public sector borrowing and high bank lending, partly offset by substantial sales of Government debt.

The sterling exchange rate index fell about 10 per cent *during 1984-85. During* the early months the fall largely reflected the strength of the dollar, although industrial unrest may also have been a contributory *factor.* Subsequently it was affected by fears about dollar oil prices.

INCOME



MONEY SUPPLY



Monetary policy

The government will continue to set targets for M0, as a measure of narrow money, and £M3, as a measure of broad *money. As before, there will be* separate ranges for each, reflecting their different trend growth rates. The targets for 1985-86 and the illustrative ranges for later are unchanged from last year's MTFS.

Precise target ranges for later years will be *decided nearer the* time and will take account of any changes in the financial structure, such as those affecting building societies, that could alter the significance of particular aggregates. The target ranges will be chosen to maintain downward pressure on the *growth of money GDP and thus* on inflation.

Significant changes in the exchange rate are also important. It will be necessary to judge *the appropriate combination* of monetary growth and the exchange rate needed to keep financial policy on track: there is no mechanistic formula.

The Government's overriding aim will be to maintain monetary conditions consistent *with a declining growth of* money GDP and inflation. Short term interest rates will be held at the levels needed to achieve this.

One factor underlying the concern over monetary conditions during last year wa public sector borrowing. *The* PSBR in 1984-85 is now forecast to be £10½ billion, equivalent to about 3¼ per cent of GDP. This is £2 billion *higher than in the Autumn* Statement, and £3¼ billion higher than expected at the time of the 1984 Budget.

By far the most important *single factor* in the overshoot in 1984-85 has been the coal strike, which is estimated to have added £2¾ billion to public sector borrowing. As a result, the PSBR has remained virtually unchanged at around 3¼ per cent of the money GDP for the last four years. This is considerably less than it was over the previous four years, when it averaged nearly 5 per cent of GDP, but it is still not low enough.

Last year's MTFS indicated the level of the PSBR which the Government considered appropriate over the medium term. A sharp reduction is now needed to keep in line with that projection.

The PSBR for 1985-86 is forecast to be £7 billion, or 2 per cent of GDP, the figure indicated in last year's MTFS. This represents a further decline in the ratio of public sector debt to money GDP and contrasts with a rising trend in debt/in*come ratios in most other major* countries. The PSBR projections repeat those given last year's MTFS and show a further small reduction as a proportion of GDP to 1¾ per cent in 1987-88 and 1988-89. The figures after 1985-86 are illustrative, *and decisions* about the appropriate PSBR in particular years will be taken nearer the time.

For the period to 1987-88, the fiscal projections are based on *the public expenditure plans* shown in the Public Expenditure White *Paper* updated to take account of the changes described below.

Public expenditure

Restraint in public spending is essential both to curb the encroachment of the state and to provide scope for reducing the burden of taxation within the overall financial framework. Lower taxation has an important part to play in improving motivation, efficiency and employment. The Government's objective is to hold public expenditure broadly level in real terms so that continuing economic growth allows *further reductions.*

Public expenditure figures for 1985-86 to 1987-88 are significantly higher than those underlying the Public Expenditure White Paper for three reasons. They allow for estimating changes reflected in a higher Reserve, for higher forecasts of debt interest and for the *employment* and training measures announced in the Budget speech. The new figures take account both of events since the White Paper, *including the continuation of the coal* strike until early March and the increase rates, and of the estimated outturns in 1984-85.

The planning total remains *broadly level in real terms,* and continues at approximately the *1984-85* level excluding the costs of the coal strike in the year. The same level is assumed for 1988-89. *Over the period* as a whole, general government expenditure falls slighly as a share of GDP from nearly 46 per cent in 1984-85 to just over 41 per cent in 1988-89.

Revenue

The growth of government revenues in cash terms over the medium term will depend on the growth of incomes, spending and prices, as well as on policy decisions.

General government receipts are projected to rise slightly less than the growth in money GDP. Government revenue from the North Sea is projected to fall in both real and nominal terms after 1985-86 as North Sea output and real oil prices both fall, but this is more than offset by rising revenues from the growing non-North Sea economy.

Public sector borrowing

The projections of government receipts and expenditure are brought together to provide *projections* of the general government borrowing requirement (GGBR) and the PSBR. The size of the fiscal adjustment depends on the estimates of revenues and expenditure. These are subject to major uncertainties about, for example, the tax yield for an assumed set of tax rates and the behavior of oil prices; and, for the final year, the level of expenditure has yet to be agreed.

Conclusion

Events both at home and aboard may modify some of the assumptions on which the projections have been based. But the Government is committed to maintain the progress to lower inflaltion in the medium *term secured by the steady* decline in monetary growth which is at the heart of the MTFS, allowing interest rates to be adjusted in line with this *objective. This will provide the* essential macro-economic framework within which the Government will pursue its micro-economic policies designed to create the conditions for higher output and more jobs.

Public sector borrowing

£ billion, cash

	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
General govt expenditure	140.1	149½	159½	164	169	173
General govt receipts	130.0	140	150	159	166	175½
Fiscal adjustments from previous years	–	–	–	–	3½	7
Annual fiscal adjustment	–	–	–	3½	3	3
GGBR	10.1	9½	9½	8½	8	7½
Public corporations' market and overseas borrowing	–0.4	+1	–2½	–1	–1	–
PSBR	9.7	10½	7	7½	7	7½
as % of GDP	3.2	3¼	2	2	1¾	1¾
Money GDP at	306	327	354	377	399	419

Constituent items may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Growth of the money supply and money GDP(¹)

	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
M0(²)	5.7	5½	3-7	2-6	1-5	0-4
£M3(²)	9.9	9½	5-9	4-8	3-7	2-6
Money GDP(³)	7¾	6¾(8¼)	8½(7)	6½	5¾	5

(¹) The money *GDP* figure for 1985-86 is a forecast; and in subsequent years the figures are assumptions.
(²) *1983-84: percentage change during the year (mid-March to mid March). 1984-88:* percentage change from mid-February to mid-February.
(³) *Percentage change on previous financial year. See Table 2.4 for further detail.* Figures in brackets for 1984-85 and 1985-86 are adjusted for the coal strike. *Rounded to nearest ¼ per cent.*

World Economy

	Per cent changes on a year earlier 1983	1984	1985	1986 first half
*GNP in Major 7 Countries**	2½	5	3½	3
Consumer Prices in Major 7 Countries*	4½	4½	4	4
World imports	2	9½	5½	5½
World trade in manufactures (UK weighted)	1½	10	5½	4½

* USA, Canada, Japan, France, Germany, Italy and UK.

THE MAIN POINTS

Reducing the rate of inflation by adhering rigorously to the *Medium Term Financial* Strategy remains the core of the Government's policy. Faster growth, higher employment, better productivity expansion, and a favourable balance of payments are expected to follow the end of the miners' strike.

● **Growth this year is expected to be 3½ per cent, the biggest contribution of ¼ per cent coming from the ending of the miners' strike. Gross domestic product grew by 2½ per cent in 1984, according to the latest estimate. On the demand side, private investment, exports, and lower stock-output ratios will help to fuel the fifth consecutive year of growth.**

● **MTFS targets are unchanged from last year. The main aggregates will continue to be MO and £M3. The target range for MO in 1985/6 is 3-7 per cent, against an actual outturn for 1984/5 of 5½ per cent; £M3 should grow in the coming financial year by 5-9 per cent, compared with 9½ per cent in 1984/5. It is still envisaged that by 1988/9 the MO growth rate will be 0-4 per cent, and that of £M3 2-6 per cent. No special role is allotted to PSL2 or M2.**

● **THE PSBR for 1984-85 is now put at £10.5 billion, or 3½ per cent of GDP. This is £2 billion more than forecast in the autumn statement and £3.5 billion more than anticipated in last year's Budget. The £2.75 billion which the miners' strike added to public expenditure is the main culprit. But for 1985-86 the PSBR is forecast to be £7 billion, or 2 per cent of GDP. It is expected that the PSBR will be held at around £7 billion until 1988-89. By then, however, it would be only 1.75 per cent of GDP.**

● **INFLATION held at around 5 per cent last year, as intended. But the depreciation of sterling has pushed up import costs, and these are expected to result in inflation rising to 6 per cent during 1985, before it falls back to around 5 per cent by the end of 1985. The forecast in the previous Budget was for a rate of 4 per cent by mid-1985.**

● **EARNINGS grew in 1984-85 at around 7.5 per cent, much the same as the year before. The underlying growth rate for real pretax earnings was 3 per cent, also largely unchanged.**

● **The Balance of Payments is expected to tip into a sizeable current account surplus in 1985, and in the first half of 1986, after being roughly in balance last year. The overall current surplus could be £3 billion at an annual rate. But the decline in the balance on manufactured goods is expected to continue. Last year manufactures registered a deficit of 1 per cent. A major offsetting factor, however, will be the rising surplus on interest, profits and dividends. The IPD surplus for 1984/85 is provisionally estimated to be £2.25 billion, against £1.75 billion in 1983. Higher oil exports will also help this year.**

● **North Sea oil production will probably peak this year after a slight increase. Its contribution to the balance of payments will rise by £3 billion to £10 billion. The tax take from oil should total £12 billion, or £2 billion higher in 1984/5 than previously forecast. It may be £4 billion more in 1985/6 than forecast. But the take could be smaller than expected by the end of the decade.**

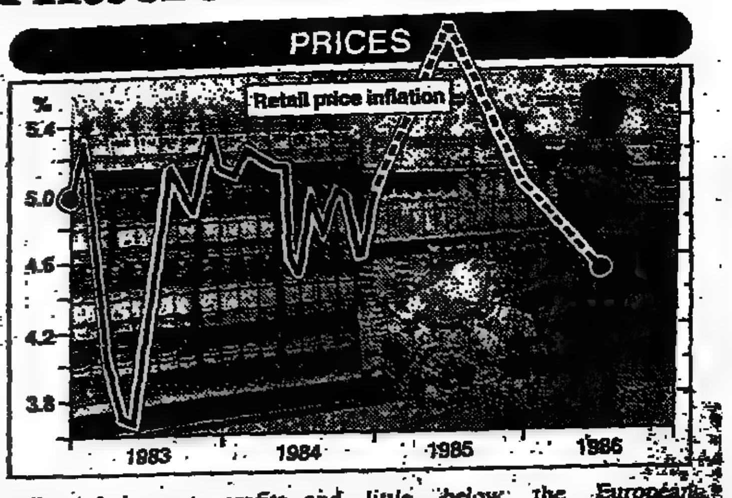
● **The pound has helped exporters' costs to improve by about 10 per cent. But this gain in competitiveness has partly been offset by a slower gain in labour cost competitiveness. The latest figures, however, indicate that there has been a modest improvement in underlying productivitiy growth. The average annual growth rate of output per capita has risen from ¾ per cetn in 1973/9 to 3½ per cent in 1979/84. Annual productivity growth is expected to remain above that of the period between the two oil shocks of 1973 and 1979, but below that of the 1960s.**

● **Government expenditure in aggregate is forecast to rise from £159.5 billion in cash terms during 1985/6 to £173 billion in 1988/9. The result for 1984/5 was £149.5 billion. General government receipts are assumed to equal expenditure by 1987/8. The Government warns, however, that the targets may have to be modified in the light of events.**

ECONOMIC FORECASTS

Further growth despite international risk

PRICES



Rapid expansion in North America and Japan helped to make 1984 the best year for economic growth since 1976. GNP in the leading seven industrialized countries rose by about 5 per cent and world imports by nearly 10 per cent. Developing countries shared in the expansion of world trade, their exports increasing by perhaps 13 per cent in volume terms.

The recovery in activity was not *accompanied* by additional inflationary pressures. Although some commodity prices rose sharply in 1983 and early 1984, most weakened in the second half of the year. *Consumer price* inflation declined in most countries, particularly France and Italy.

The dollar has continued to strengthen against all other leading currencies despite some fall in US interest rates in the second half of 1984 and despite an increasing US current account deficit. By the end of February 1985, the effective dollar exchange rate was more *than 25 per cent* above its level of two years ago and more than 60 per cent above its 1979 level, despite little difference over these periods between US *inflation* and the average inflation rate.

Oil prices in dollar terms weakened in 1984, although, measured in other currencies, they rose. After allowing for the strong dollar and low world inflation, oil prices changed little in real terms.

Outside the US, there have been some further moves to cut budget deficits. The disparity in trends of budget deficits between the US and other developed economies has been reflected in growing imbalances on the current account of the balance of payments, although *the picture is* obscured by large measurement errors.

The recorded US current account deficit in 1984 was about $100 billion, while the *Japanese surplus rose* to about $35 billion and the German surplus to $6 billion.

The world recovery, which began at the end of 1982, seems to be well established. Growth in North America is slowing to a more sustainable rate and *GNP in the US and* Canada may rise 3 or 4 per cent between 1984 and 1985. In Japan, another year of growth in the region of 5 per cent is expected. Prospects in *Europe* are for continued, if still relatively slow, expansion.

But substantial risks remain. Imbalances may increase in 1985. Government deficits are generally planned to fall in Europe and in Japan; but in the US, despite *the prospect* of some budget cuts for fiscal 1986 and lower levels of unemploy*ment,* the federal deficit is expected to remain high.

The US deficit and larger corporate borrowing needs could push up short-term *interest rates again. The* US current account deficit may increase further, with large counterpart surpluses in Germany and Japan.

The sterling index is now some way below the levels assumed in both the 1984 *Financial Statement* and Budget Report and the autumn statement. Almost *half of the fall* in sterling over the past year has been the counterpart of the *dollar's strength against all* principal currencies. The coal strike and the expectation of a fall in oil prices have also contributed to pressure on sterling. *This forecast assumes* that the sterling index will not change much from its average level in January and February.

The lower exchange rate means that over the last year most measures of price and cost competitiveness of British *manufactures have shown gains* estimated at about 10 per cent. The gain in labour cost competitiveness has been less than the fall in the exchange rate, as *earnings in Britain,* particularly in manufacturing, continue to grow faster than those of our leading competitors.

This trend is expected to continue over the forecast period implying, on the assumption of no big changes in the exchange rate, that some of *the recent gains in cost competitiveness* will be reversed.

The British current account was in balance (on provisional data) for 1984 as a whole. *Deficits* on manufactured goods, food and basic materials, and transfers were roughly offset by surpluses on services, oil, and interest, profits and dividends.

The direct effect of the coal strike on the current account in 1984 is estimated to have bee about £2.75 billion. Following *the ending of the strike,* the effect on the 1985 balance will be lower, at about £1.25 billion in the first quarter of the year.

Export volumes (excluding oil and erratics) rose by 9 per cent in 1984, the largest increase in a single year since 1976. Exports of manufactures (excluding erratics) rose by some 10.5 per cent, largely due *to the* very rapid growth, probably of 10 per cent or so, in world trade *in manufactures.* Since 1981, the gradual improvement in cost competitiveness has helped Britain broadly to maintain its volume-share of world trade in manufactures.

In 1985, British exports of manufactures are expected to grow somewhat faster than world trade, as recent gains in *cost competitiveness* help export volumes. Exports of non-manufactures should also continue to grow. Exports of goods (excluding oil) are forecast to *grow by 7.5 per cent in total.*

Import volumes (excluding oil and erratics) also grew *rapidly* in 1984 as the domestic recovery continued, rising by 10.5 per cent. Imports of manufactures grew by a similar amount.

Oil trade

There is likely to be a small increase in oil production in 1985 when North Sea oil output may reach its peak. With the end of the coal strike, fuel imports should fall in 1985 *which may* also be the peak year for the contribution of oil to the balance of payments.

The world recovery and improvements in competitiveness have not yet been reflected in provisional estimates of the balance of trade in services: the *1984 balance* is estimated to have been close to the 1983 level. Some improvement in the services balance should occur in 1985.

The overall picture is thus one of a sizable current account surplus, both for 1985 and for *the first half of 1986,* perhaps of the order of £3 billion at an annual rate. Within that total, some further decline in the balance of trade in manufacturers *is forecast, continuing* the trend which was seen the balance fell from a surplus of 5 per cent of GDP in 1970, to one of 3 per cent in 1978, and to a deficit of 1 per cent last year.

The balance of trade in oil should show a substantial *improvement* with the end of the coal strike, and improvements to the services and interest, profit and dividends accounts should raise the surplus on invisibles.

Current account surpluses, together with capital gans and currency changes, have led to a *continuing* increase in overseas assets. Britain's net external assets have risen as a percentage of GDP from 7.5 per cent at the end of 1979 to an estimated 23 per cent last year, from £13 billion to £75 billion.

Inflation

In 1984, inflation in Britain continued at around the same rates as in 1983: the increase in the retail price index of 4.75 per *cent between the fourth quarters* of 1983 and 1984 was in line with earlier government forecasts. British inflation remains a little below the *European* average, which has declined over the last year, but above that in the US, Japan and Germany, the years 1983 and *1984* were the first two successive calendar years since the late 1960s to record growth in the RPI at 5 per cent or below. In January 1985 the RPI was 5 per cent higher than a year earlier; in January and February, producer output prices were *more than 6 per cent higher.*

The sterling exchange rate index fell by some 13 per cent between February 1983 and February 1984, almost half of which was *due to* the rise in the dollar, bringing its total decline since the peak in early 1981 to over 30 per cent. Import prices in the course of 1984 rose by 12 per cent. The *reduction in* inflation during the period of sterling depreciation reflected the downward pressure on prices exerted by the Government's macroeconomic financial framework.

Most people in work again experienced a substantial increase in living standards. In the current round, settlements on average are not very different from those in the last two years. Over and above the basic increases negotiated under pay settlements, additional *elements– such as productivity* deals, bonus payments, and changes in overtime and short-time– have contributed to average earnings growing at a rate of about 7½ per cent.

The underlying pretax growth in real earnings during 1984 was approaching 3 per cent, much the same rate of increase as over the previous two years.

There is not much sign of any big change, up or down, in the rate of pay settlements and earnings increases. On this basis, labour costs may rise by about 5 per cent over the next year, a little faster than during 1984 when the National Insurance surcharge was *abolished.*

Profit margins on domestic sales fell towards the end of 1984 and at the beginning of 1985, although increasing profit margins on exports and a generally higher level of output permitted a continuing healthy growth of profits. *There may be* some recovery of domestic margins during the early part of 1985.

The rate of growth of the RPI may be about 6 per cent in the second quarter. Before the end of the year, overall conditions in the economy should be consistent with inflation moving down again. By the fourth quarter, the rise in the RPI may be about 5 per cent, broadly in line with costs. By mid-1986, with a slower growth in import costs, inflation may be around 4.5 per cent.

Demand and activity

Latest estimates suggest that growth of GDP was about 2.5 per cent in 1984. The different measures of GDP have been telling rather different stories about growth in recent quarters; the income measure has shown stronger growth and the expenditure measure weaker growth than the average measure.

Statistics on the economy over the last year have been distorted by the coal strike. The overtime ban and subsequent strike reduced output in the coal *industry in 1984* by well over half. There has been some effect on the output of other industries:

Short-term economic prospects

	Forecast	Average errors from past forecasts*
A. Output and expenditure at constant 1980 prices		
% changes between 1984 and 1985:		
GDP (at factor cost)	3½	1
Consumers' expenditure	3	1
General Govmnt consumption	2	1½
Fixed investment	2	2
Exports of goods and services	6½	2½
Imports of goods and services	3½	2½
Change in stockbuilding (as % of level of GDP)	0	¾
B. Balannce of payments on current account		
£ billion:		
1984	0	–
1985	3	2½
1986 first half (at an annual rate)	3	4
C. Public Sector Borrowing Requirement		
£ billion (in brackets % of GDP at market prices):		
Financial year 1984-85	10½(3¼)	1(¼)
Financial year 1985-86	7(2)	4½(1½)
D. Retail Prices Index		
% change:		
Fourth quarter 1984 to fourth quarter 1985	5	2
Second quarter 1985 to second quarter 1986	4½	3½

* The errors relate to the average differences (on either side of the central figure) between forecast and outturn. The method of calculating these errors has been explained in earlier publications and government forecasts (see Economic Progress Report June 1981). The calculations for the constant price variables are derived from forecasts made during the period between June 1965 and October 1983. For the *current* balance and the retail prices index, forecasts made between June 1970 and October 1982 are used. For the PSBR, Budget forecasts since 1967 are used. The errors are after adjustment for the effects *of major* changes in fiscal policy where excluded from the forecasts.

PUBLIC SPENDING

Coal strike hits expenditure prospects

The Government's expenditure plans which are drawn up within the framework of last year's Green Paper, *The Next Ten Years* and the medium-*term financial strategy (MTFS),* are a key element in the drive to create the right conditions for sustained economic growth.

The prospects for expenditure, as well as for revenue and borrowing, are reviewed annually in the Budget. This year the review has had to take account of a number of significant changes in the economic scene since the Survey was completed. *These* changes include a lower exchange rate and higher interest rates as well as the costs of the prolonged coal strike. It has also become clear that, coal *strike effects apart,* public expenditure in 1984-85 is likely to exceed the planning total.

Having reassessed prospects *in the light of these changes,* the Government has decided to make adjustments to the White Paper planning totals for 1985-86 to 1987-88, adding £2 billion to the Reserve and *thus to the* total in each year.

These cash plans imply that the level of spending will fall slightly in real terms between 1985-86 and 1987-88, following a significant fall between 1984-85 and 1985-86. *However,* after excluding the £2½ billion estimated cost of the coal strike in 1984-85, the planning total is broadly constant in real terms over this period.

Public expenditure as a percentage of GDP is now estimated to have risen in 1984-85 because of the coal strike costs, temporarily reversing the downward trend established since 1981-82. But the revised spending plans point to a substantial renewed fall in this percentage over the next three years.

Public corporations' market and overseas borrowing has to be deducted from the planning total to convert to general government expenditure. This element is usually negative (i.e. a net repayment *which* is expected to be particularly large in 1985-86) but in 1984-85 it is estimated to be positive as a result of the coal strike.

SPECTRUM

Are submarines the key to tapping the Arctic's oil riches?

At the tip of a golden iceberg

Twenty-five years ago, the USS Sea Dragon became the first submarine to transit under ice through the legendary North-West Passage, en route for Pearl Harbour via the North Pole. The diving officer on board was Alfred McLaren who has recently been in Europe seeking converts to a revolutionary idea – to build submarines as underwater oil tankers. They are the ideal vehicles, he says, to provide safe, year-round transport out of the difficult ice-bound oilfields in the High Arctic. BILL MANSON looks into what many traditionalists view as a crazy idea.

Captain Alfred Scott McLaren has lived in submarines for nearly a quarter of a century, prowling around under the North Pole shadowing Soviet subs or surveying the scarcely-known waters of the Arctic.

And while he travelled silently between the ceiling of hanging ice mountains and the mud floor of the seabed, safe from the raging storms above, he often wondered what other uses submarines could have. It was only after he retired from the US Navy research establishments and became a student again that he found an answer.

How to get oil out of the High Arctic was the last of a long line of problems facing oilmen sent up to explore the far north as part of the West's drive towards self-sufficiency. They had found the oil and gas. Originally they were talking of 60 billion barrels of oil alone – enough to make a second Middle East of the Arctic. They have since revised that figure downwards, but no one doubts that the Beaufort Sea/North-West Passage area is bulging with carbon-based fuels. The oilmen had managed to cope with the weather, and adopted new techniques to drill offshore through ice in temperatures that would freeze even oil. But they had not come to terms with transportation.

What was needed was a reliable, year-round means of taking the oil and gas down to population centres, or at least to ice-free ports. Pipelines, the usual first choice, become more difficult when wells are out to sea. And pipes laid under the Arctic have hazards of their own, aside from their huge expense. In the shallow seas of the Beaufort, ice floes come spinning off from their slow clockwise waltz around the Pole and often scrape ashore, gouging the seabed under force of wind and current. Any pipe underneath is sure to rupture.

The effects of an oil spill under Arctic conditions are as yet unknown. It would be an oilman's nightmare. Repairing a gushing underwater pipe would be almost impossible. Spilled oil would become trapped under the ice and in those temperatures take years longer to break down than in warmer waters. Oil tankers are the obvious solution. But Arctic offshore is different with its raging weather, ice packs, icebergs and long winter night: no tankers, not even ice-strengthened, can promise year-round service.

It was about this time that Captain Alfred McLaren, student, was looking for a thesis subject. He was studying at the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge and working towards a PhD in Polar Studies at the University of Colorado. The oilmen's dilemma awoke his old preoccupations. Perhaps there was a commercial role for the submarine in the Arctic. Why not build an oil tanker that goes under water, under ice, avoiding the autumn storms and the winter ice barriers, building on the 50 years of Arctic submarine development?

He knew it was less of a conceptual leap than people thought. America's Admiral Galantin had pointed out 25 years ago that fully-laden surface tankers were already nine-tenths submarine. "It requires little imagination", he had said, "and very simple engineering to go all the way in putting the ship underwater and producing a simpler, more efficient hull, one which can escape the stresses of surface operation and which can maintain a high economic speed."

One of the fathers of the modern submarine, the American Simon Lake, actually built submarines for the Russians which they used under ice off Vladivostok before the First World War. And in 1917 he was seriously planning two types of cargo-carrying submarines of 11,000 and 13,000 tonnes (larger than the present Polaris ballistic missile submarines) to navigate across the Arctic from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The explorer Sir Hubert Wilkins converted a military submarine and tried under-ice experiments in 1931. His aim was "to demonstrate dramatically the fact that submersible vessels may be used for the opening up and development of the Hudson Bay district and other northern areas".

> ‘Submarines compare well with pipes and icebreakers’

U-boats and Japanese submarines were used as tankers and cargo-carriers during the Second World War, but the most serious proposal was made much later by the British Saunders-Roe company. They carried out design work for a 50,000 tonne nuclear submarine cargo vessel capable of carrying 28,000 tonnes of iron ore pellets from the Diana Bay region in northern Quebec to Britain throughout the year regardless of ice conditions.

Across the Atlantic in 1958, and again in '62 and '70 (after the discovery of oil in Alaska) the giant General Dynamics corporation did feasibility studies on submarine tankers. They thought big: they proposed building a fleet of 16 nuclear-powered super-sub tankers capable of carrying 1¼ million barrels of oil each. They were convinced these tankers could transport oil from Alaska to East Coast US ports more cheaply than pipelines. But the oil companies refused, and opted more conservatively for the Trans-Alaska pipeline – despite the fact that its costs escalated to 10 times its original estimate.

After its first Arab oil embargo, an alarmed US Department of Commerce commissioned a study to explore the feasibility of an Arctic submarine transportation system to deliver oil direct to the East Coast. Plans for nuclear sub-tankers of up to almost a million tonnes resulted. Again, the study found that "submarine tanker systems are technically feasible, offer an attractive rate of return, and compare favourably with other delivery systems in terms of transportation costs". Again, nothing happened.

Why has everybody backed off in spite of the encouraging prognoses? "I think it's a fear of what they can't see," says McLaren. "It's like Jaws. Once you've seen that film, bathing is never the same. A monster from the primeval deep. Submarines first came to public consciousness with Jules Verne's *Twenty-thousand Leagues Under The Sea* – and they have never shaken off that image because they go where nobody can see. Submarines, let alone submarines under the ice, go beyond most people's understanding of reasonable, straightforward and safe transportation.

"Yet if you look at the record of submarine Arctic travel since the last war you'll see there has not been one single accident. It is spotless. Compare that with surface ships in the same area. Even recent experimental icebreaker surface tankers have had to be hauled out by other icebreakers or have collided with icebergs. People don't realize that with modern sounding equipment, Arctic subs can actually 'see' better than surface ships up there battling the worst of the elements in half solid seas in an Arctic night. But putting Jules Verne to bed – that's the problem."

Where is McLaren going to succeed where so many others have failed? "First, I'm by no means alone. And second, I'm running counter to the grandiose plans of old – I'm thinking small." His idea is to use standard size subs not as tankers, but as underwater tugboats. They would carry oil in neutral density Kevlar shapes like those the Australians use to haul water around their coasts. With submarines of existing technology – pressure hulls, diesel motive power – research and development would take half the time with none of the risks associated with untried huge pressure hulls. They would give access to shallow-water wells in the Beaufort and to all normal-size polynyas – the regular but shifting gaps in the polar sea-ice.

The environmental lobby, such a powerful factor, especially with pipeline planners, should approve of subs too, McLaren thinks. Not only do subs not smash up the ice floes, with their animal and bird life and Inuit (Eskimo) hunters, but the very quietness of military submarines would eliminate one of the biggest objections to icebreaker supertankers – the noise of their engines. It is widely held that the roar and propellor beat of a 43,000 horsepower engine severely disrupts the lives of whales and other sea mammals which depend on sound detection.

McLaren's "think small" approach is echoed by IKL (Ingenieur Kantar Lubeck), a German design firm with links to Vickers, which has been doing feasibility studies on submarine barge systems, in which barges would clamp on to carrier subs transporting loads which they winch up into their belly. IKL is also working on fuel cell power, the unmechanical conversion of hydrogen and oxygen into electricity – an ideal alternative to nuclear power, duplicating nuclear's great benefit of allowing extended stays underwater.

> ‘A sea route could do what railroads did for the West’

Micoperi SpA of Milan is also working on a new commercial submarine. It would be powered by a new non-nuclear diesel engine which feeds on compressed oxygen. They have already tested it in a submarine which, with some adaptation, could be tested in Arctic conditions.

But all this enthusiasm means nothing without the active participation of the oil companies. Geoff Larminie of BP says that oilmen know and trust pipelines – but if they were out, he would choose submarines before icebreaker tankers.

David Annesley of Canada's Dome Petroleum, one of the biggest explorers of the far north, is in favour of icebreakers. "We're testing them now, and not having a bad feedback. In winter the swathe you cut through the ice pack closes in two hours."

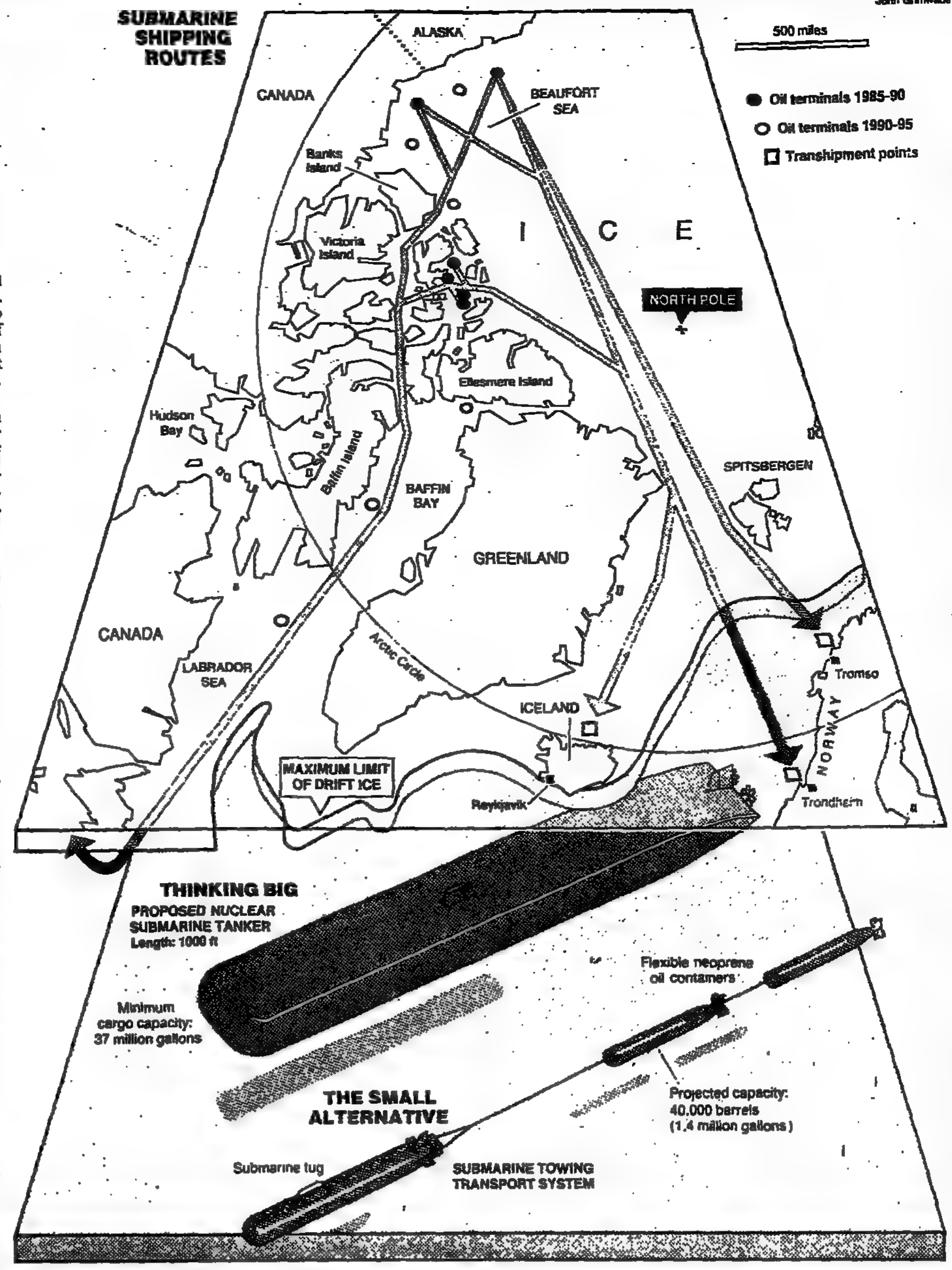
"Everybody underestimates the lead time for developing", says IKL's Dr Fritz Abels. "Even Captain McLaren was astonished at our projections. We need to know what people's actual requirements are, so we can move smoothly through development to a demonstration model and through to production. We have the technology. Our studies show submarines on a cost basis compare favourably with icebreaker tankers and pipelines. But now designers, builders and oil companies should come together in a spirit to pool risks and knowledge, because the project is too big for any one of us. And at the least we need seven years."

One reason why oil companies have not taken up this or any other new idea is that there is no rush for oil at the Canadian Arctic cost. The current oil glut has taken the edge off the 1970s' desperate struggles for self-sufficiency at any price. When the Saudis are only producing five or six million barrels a day instead of their potential 11-14 million, you can see how much things have to change before High Arctic oil provokes a stampede. On the other hand the fact that a troubled company such as Dome (currently stretching bankers' faith with a six billion dollar overdraft) is proceeding with exploration which – with any luck – will start producing oil in the 1990s may indicate the expectations of oil prices in the next decade.

Where does this leave the good visionary Captain McLaren? Still pursuing his project – and not without soulmates. A former president of Humble Oil saw the North-West Passage as the catalyst which could open up the resources of far-northern Alaska and Canada to the world. "A year-round sea-route in this area could do for the Arctic areas what the railroads did for the Western US – and might do it quicker."

"The trouble is vision", declares McLaren. "In the early days technological capability didn't keep pace with vision. Today, vision hasn't kept pace with technological capability.

"The next step is to bury Jules Verne. About 20,000 leagues under the sea would do just fine."



Falashas are still fledglings

Beersheva: There is widespread bitterness among the estimated 10,000 recently arrived Ethiopian Jews about the refusal by Israel's two chief rabbis to permit them to be recognized as fully fledged Jews without undergoing a ritual conversion ceremony.

The strength of feeling among the Falashas who arrived in "Operation Moses" has gone relatively unnoticed because of the strict ban on all reporters – Israeli and foreign – from entering the absorption centres run for them by the Jewish Agency.

No satisfactory reason has been given for the ban, but there is a suspicion among social workers that the agency is unwilling to permit the newcomers to air their grievances, particularly the flat refusal of young Falashas to undertake the immersion in a ritual bath demanded by the Rabbinate.

In this Negev Desert town, where some 20 per cent (about 3,000) of all the Falashas in Israel are to be found, the anger felt about the conversion issue is blamed by community leaders for last month's suicide of a young Falasha who jumped from an upper storey of the government hospital.

"We are the Jews who have paid the highest price in all the world to come up to Jerusalem, and yet, when we arrive, we are treated differently from the white Jews", complained Mr Rahamin Holar (not his real name), aged 41, an Ethiopian who has been living in Israel for four years, and works for the Ministry of Education.

The chief rabbis have so far refused to revise their ruling despite protests from other senior religious figures including former Sephardi chief rabbi, Ovadia Yosef, who ruled last month – in his current capacity as a private citizen – that the Falashas are fully fledged Jews.

Because of the Jewish Agency ban on all coverage of life in the absorption centres – where the new arrivals stay for an average of a year – an official view on the operation mounted here, in the wake of Operation Moses, was impossible to come by.

At the three star Zohar Hotel in Beersheva, whose 150 rooms have been turned over entirely to single Ethiopians, I was turned away at the entrance. Young Ethiopians whom I questioned on the steps about the controversial conversion question refused to answer while under the suspicious gaze of Jewish Agency staff.

In addition to the anger on the conversion issue inside the tight knit Falasha community, bitter arguments still rage about what provoked the Israelis to admit publicly to running the airlift and thus cause its premature termination while thousands of their fellow citizens were still stranded at disease-stricken camps in Sudan waiting for rescue.

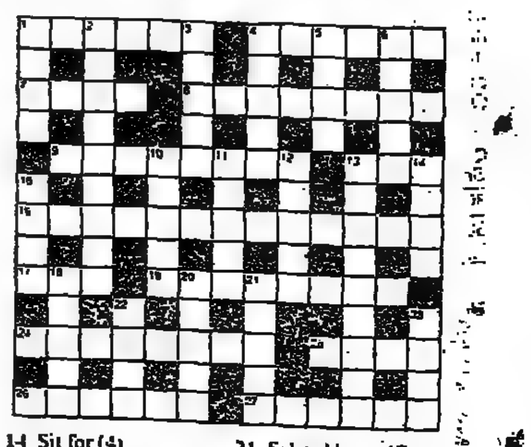
"We have analysed all the reasons, and it is hard not to think that the Israeli Government did not – or could not – absorb any more of us here", said one Ethiopian who refused to reveal his identity for fear of compromising relatives at home.

Despite the veil of secrecy, it is apparent that the great majority of those who have arrived are genuinely pleased to be in Israel. Allegations by Ethiopia's Marxist leader, Colonel Helle Mariam Mengistu, that they had somehow been forced to come here, were contemptuously ridiculed by every Falasha I spoke to.

Many of the new black immigrants – still struggling with the basic rudiments of Hebrew and the vast cultural differences of a technological society – appear to have little knowledge of the international controversy sparked by the decision disclosed earlier this month that the Housing Ministry is planning to send an unspecified number of Falashas to the settlement of Kiryat Arba, in the occupied West Bank, and Katzrin, on the Golan Heights, built on land conquered from Syria and annexed by Israel in 1981.

Christopher Walker

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 599)



ACROSS
1 Sorrow (6)
4 Reason (6)
7 Bland (4)
8 International police (8)
9 Educated (8)
13 Track circuit (3)
16 Olivet (5.2.6)
17 School exam (1.1.1)
19 Christmas (8)
24 Icterus (8)
25 Transfer (4)
26 Pounding tool (6)
27 Foil decoration (6)

DOWN
1 Calcium hydroxide (4)
2 Large crowd (9)
3 Attempter (5)
4 RC anthem (5)
5 Time period (4)
6 Alto violin (5)
10 Admission (5)
11 Nasty (5)
12 Ostentation (5)
13 Anger (9)
14 Sit for (4)
15 Smokey fog (4)
18 Rub sore (5)
20 Useful (5)
21 School leave (5)
22 Tree trunk lump (4)
23 Boat's lowest part (4)

SOLUTION TO No 598
ACROSS: 1 Throng 5 Rusk 8 Since 9 Amalgam 11 Rhapsody 13 Joss 15 Penny farthing 17 Iamb 18 Nitrogen 21 Nankeen 22 Mares 23 Leer 24 Lather
DOWN: 2 Henna 3 Ole 4 Grand National 5 Rear 6 Signori 7 Ascription 10 Misogynist 12 Soya 14 Star 16 Nominee 19 Gorge 20 Weir 22 Mat

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Why this could be the age of the older woman

Society is ignoring older women and their special needs. Helen Franks reports on how this formerly docile group is now getting together to organize a fight for its rights

I remember some years ago listening to a woman in her eighties explaining why she wouldn't go to a day centre. "The people are so old there", she said.

We're all a bit like that when it comes to ageing. We tell ourselves we are only as old as we feel, and what we feel is not old at all, forgetting that just as we label our contemporaries more middle-aged or more feeble-minded than we are, so they are likely to judge us.

It works even more effectively against the female than the male. "Old" where women are concerned tends to include anyone from 50 upwards. It's what comes of being in a male-dominated culture which also happens to be hooked on youth. Of course, to be old and male is no guarantee of acceptability either, but men have more staying power, having never been primarily evaluated according to their looks. They have greater opportunity to gain worldly success, and the respect that goes with it. They have a better chance of being admired for wisdom and judgement – things that can come with experience and age.

Once upon a time old women were wise, even rather dangerous, if you include witches. Now they have been neutered, their flying brooms and magic spells replaced with knitting needles and bedsocks. Older women are supposed to be inoffensive, kindly grannies who keep away from trouble, and if they act out of character and do something positive like refuse certain drugs or object to being rehoused they risk being called stupid, intractable and probably senile, rather than people who want to have a say in their own lives.

The problems go deeper than stereotypes. There's a whole lot wrong with society's treatment of older women: the pension system, for example, which requires a long span of National Insurance contributions to qualify for full benefit. Many women have an interrupted work record through child-rearing or caring for an elderly relative. Part-timers – and 90 per cent of them are women – are often excluded from firms' occupational pension schemes.

Married women do not qualify for invalid care allowance, though married men nursing sick wives do. The back-up for carers, most of whom are women, is often inadequate and ever-threatened by increasing cuts. Surveys have shown that the main health problems for carers are back pain through lifting invalids and the inability to have physiotherapy or other treatments because there is no one to deputize for them at home.

Though women's organizations have always provided meeting places and community activity, few have a tradition for campaigning or working as pressure groups on these kinds of issues. Even the women's movement, staunch exposer of female stereotypes and social inequalities, has only recently begun to take up the causes of older women. Emily Pankhurst might have been 59 when she was arrested in the cause of women's suffrage, but latter-day feminism began with a younger age group – students, housewives with small children, and those without family responsibilities exploring their own uncertainties and often emerging angry and militant. Older women who were interested in their ideas were often put off: they felt excluded, intimidated.

There were a few exceptions. The North London Older Women's Group has been meeting fortnightly since 1978, and today signs of much greater expansion can be seen. The Older Feminists' Network began in 1982 following a meeting organized by *Spare Rib* magazine. It is mainly London-based, reaching about 200 women through a newsletter and monthly meetings, and the aim is to form pressure groups and lobby MPs on various issues including housing, health, transport for older women, as well as race and disability.

The GLC women's committee also has plans in the pipeline. Sheila Tarbard, equality adviser within the women's unit, is organizing an open meeting this April in order to define the issues.

Pensioners' Link, a self-help organization with workers in 12 London boroughs, is holding a conference this month on the needs of older women. And the Kingsway Project, the GLC's "multipurpose resource centre for women", formerly the Kingsway Hall, has plans in mind for the over-fifties. At present, various adult education classes, day centres and women's groups are being consulted for ideas; there will probably be special sports facilities, keep-fit classes, courses on coping with widowhood, living alone, along with a library and low-cost restaurant.

Even GLC abolitionists will surely see some worth in all this. At present, there are four times as many female pensioners as male at the age of 75. Nearly half of all women over 65 live alone, compared with 21 per cent of men. As the population ages, there will be more and more older women whose welfare will have to be considered. The need will arise for more day centres, more sheltered housing, more home nursing, more transport facilities for the old, more support for the carers.

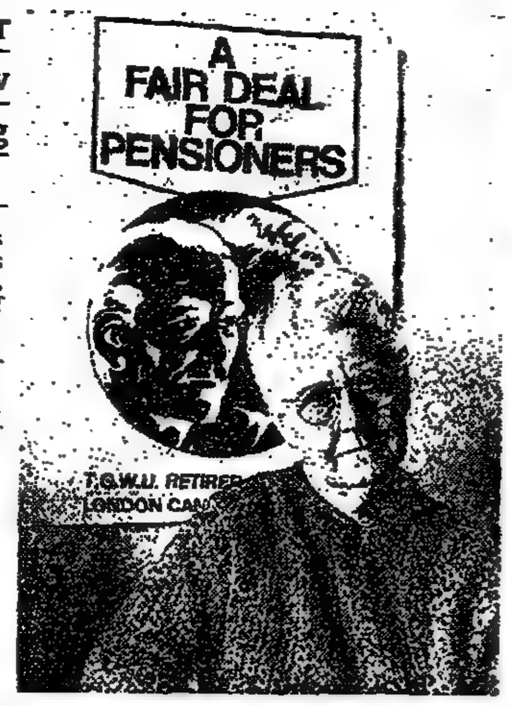
It is this last factor which must be making the policy-planners in Whitehall cross their fingers. What will happen if younger women refuse to be as self-sacrificing as their mothers, if they challenge the idea of the female as the person to fall back on as chief carer in the home?

The question is already being addressed in America. As writer Barbara Macdonald puts it in her book on ageing, *Look Me In The Eye*, "If we face the problem of caring for our mothers with sentimentality, the male world will rip us off for sure. Perhaps we can avoid the compassion trap . . . and face the problem with true sentiment, caring not only what happens to our ageing mothers but also what happens to ourselves".

It is an awesome problem which will need stronger magic than crossed fingers. Men are still predominantly the policy-makers. In the DHSS, for instance, there are only 22.8 per cent of women in public appointments. But as their number increases, as it must surely do, will they demand a fairer deal, a greater share of the caring from male partners, better pension rights, more and better paid home helps and auxiliary services? If they themselves wish to preserve their jobs and their independence and their image as effective members of society as they and their own parents age, then the answer must be yes, if only out of self-interest.

None of us, and this goes for men too, can afford to say that we are only as old as we feel. It's being as old as we are that counts, and then taking appropriate action.

The Older Feminists' Network, c/o A Woman's Place, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2
Sheila Tarbard, GLC Women's Committee, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB
Pensioners' Link, 17 Balfe Street, London W1
The Kingsway Project, Jenny Williams, c/o The County Hall
"Look Me In The Eye" by Barbara Macdonald: published by The Women's Press, £2.95



'Things are worse'

Molly Prendergast *(above) is 77, twice widowed. She is now a campaigner with Westminster Active Pensioners, a voluntary group seeking better pensions.*

"We campaign for a pension we can really live on, so we don't have to apply for all these supplementary benefits which are means tested.

"A lot of people who are older say, well I've worked all my life and I don't want to get involved with campaigns. I automatically went into campaigning.

"I don't wonder that there are millions of benefits unclaimed every year. Oh my goodness, what you've got to go through. You have a four-sided form to fill in and you have to take all your bits and pieces, your savings, anything you've got. There's nothing private any more. It says at the end of the form something like 'If you have not declared this truthfully you are liable to be fined', and it frightens the life out of people, especially women who are not used to form-filling."

'Treated as idiots'

Zelda Curtis, *(above) in her sixties, was involved with one of the first groups within the women's movement to be concerned with older women's issues, in 1978.*

"When you get older women together the things that come up are transport, housing, health, fear of violence, being the carer. There's a great deal of poverty among older women, and that means they haven't got transport of their own. A lot of women are worried and fearful of using public transport, especially in the evenings.

"I'd like to see older women have more of a say in the design and layout of sheltered housing, not only to make it safer. I've seen door after door facing on to a long, dark corridor, and it's like living in a prison.

"Health is another big issue. A lot of doctors dismiss physical complaints as depression or say 'it's your age', and treat women as idiots. Bearing in mind that one woman in four over the age of 65 gets osteoporosis – brittle bones – there ought to be more diet advice from doctors."

'We are invisible'

Jean Shapiro *(left) is 68, married, has three children and four grandchildren. She was editor of the Family Centre section of Good Housekeeping for 15 years, is now working two days a week answering letters for Good Housekeeping.*

"The older woman is invisible in many magazines. She rarely if ever appears in photographs or drawings. I've been told that it is really not on to publish a series on older women because they are so difficult to illustrate – they are seen as an unattractive subject. It is difficult to find illustrators who can portray older women sympathetically and not as a caricature.

"I think few older women come to terms with the problem of choosing clothes. They are so frightened of looking like the proverbial mutton dressed as lamb that they tend to go for very conservative clothes and don't know how to modify their style. One difficulty is that the image of the well-dressed older woman is somebody dressed in very expensive, exclusive clothes which of course the majority can't afford.

"A kind of apartheid exists between old and young. My husband and I go to jazz concerts, at some of which we are the oldest people in the audience. There is a feeling that when something is created for the old it becomes a ghetto."

The friendly way to bridge the gap

Mary Stott, writer and broadcaster, says: "*However fond mothers and daughters are of one another there is an inevitable and permanent generation gap which is usually insuperable. Mother seems to regard daughter as scarcely grown up, even though she is a mother of teenage daughters herself; daughter tends to regard mother as imagining she must know best.*

"What I have discovered in my seventies is that the generation gap is *not* insuperable when the elderly lady and the woman of 30 plus (whether married or single, a mother or childless) are friends, not mother and daughter.

"The older I grow, the more I find that the **younger women with whom I associate in my feminist campaigning activities and my neighbourhood involvements regard me with supportive affection. They regard me as a useful source of information – for after all, I have been in the business of acquiring and passing on information; and they know that because in my youth I was prevented by age-old sex prejudice from doing jobs I had set my heart on doing, I am ready to back them to the hilt."**

Before I Go *by Mary Stott will be published by Virago tomorrow at £4.50.*

If you want a full life, you're never alone with a skip

FIRST PERSON

Rupert Morris

Some people's home life revolves round the sitting-room, others' round the bedroom, others' round the pub. Ours tends to revolve increasingly round the skip – a world at once fascinating and dangerous, as I shall endeavour to explain.

Country dwellers may not be familiar with the skip which, although it can be glimpsed in rural buiders' yards, is essentially an urban phenomenon. It is to be found in those streets which estate agents refer to as "rapidly improving", but which might more accurately be described as dilapidated. Our own street in west London is one such.

People who buy houses in these streets need somewhere to put all the wreckage they have to remove in order to make their new homes habitable: the skip is the large metal receptacle which is deposited at the side of the road by lorry for this purpose.

But it has similarities with certain rural habitats. It is, as David Attenborough might say, a magnet for all sorts of life-forms. And, like the badger's set, or the owl's nest, it comes into its own at night.

On an ordinary night, preferably during the summer when more creatures venture out, the skip-watcher might observe something along the following lines: a cider-drinker, heralding his approach with some faint, tuneless singing, pauses by the skip, peers in and picks out a broken umbrella; he carries it along for a few unsteady paces, then, having discovered that it is indeed broken, jettisons it on the pavement.

Next comes the distinctive noise of a Ford Cortina with a broken exhaust, which roars up to the skip and disgorges two young men in jeans; they lift a sack of building debris out of the boot, heave it into the skip, and roar off.

A little later, and an elderly lady from over the road opens her front door, looks right and left, then shuffles with unaccustomed speed across the road to deposit a derelict carpet sweeper.

In the early morning the patient skip-watcher might catch a glimpse of a pin-striped man in a BMW who stops the car on his way to the office to rid himself of a broken umbrella. That same evening a cider-drinker might wander along the street, again tunelessly singing – and the familiar cycle will have begun again.

The ideal method of observing a skip is from an upstairs window, behind a heavy curtain. But this is not David Attenborough territory, and most of the people who indulge in this particular pastime are motivated by anything but peaceful curiosity.

The typical skip-watcher is driven by an almost obsessive jealousy which originates from the depressing experience of hiring a skip, leaving it empty the first night, and waking up to find it at least half full, even before he has cleared the first bit of builders' debris from the house.

The skip he is watching is his own, temporarily at least, and his burning desire is to "catch one of the bastards" in the act of putting something in it. To this end, he may even be armed with a blunt instrument.

Big John, who owns one of the houses in our street, has no need of a blunt instrument, he himself being only a little smaller than his house. He stands by the skip most of the day, and nobody goes near it. By the time evening comes, the skip is full of rubble, and of little use to neighbourhood scavengers.

We hired a skip the other day, and took care to fill it up before anyone could get near. The trouble is that we keep acquiring more debris, and it doesn't seem worth ordering another skip every time.

My wife and mother-in-law have a simple solution: use someone else's. I have tried to point out the anti-social aspects of this activity, but to little effect.

Whenever my mother-in-law comes to stay, the pair of them gather together all the rubbish they have collected during the day, and after dinner they set off in the car to find a suitable skip. Whether they disguise themselves I do not know, having retreated upstairs to watch television.

What worries me even more than my social conscience is the fear that one day they will fall foul of one of those vicious, embittered people who lurk behind heavy curtains in upstairs windows.

Rise to the occasion with a savoury roulade

Shona Crawford Poole

The idea that soufflés are perilous makes them an event in any company. No one is too blasé to greet a well-risen soufflé without a smile of pleasurable anticipation.

Hot savoury roulades are no more than rolled soufflés, but less risky. They embrace the principles of soufflé making while reducing the chances of a flop. And for numbers greater than four, roulades are more practical too than dish soufflés. One rolled soufflé will give six to eight servings.

Cheese and ham roulade
Serves six to eight

30 g (1 oz) butter
30 g (1 oz) plain flour
300 ml (1/2 pint) milk
55 g (2 oz) freshly grated parmesan cheese
5 large eggs, separated
Salt and cayenne pepper

For the filling

225 g (8 oz) fresh curd or cream cheese
225 g (8 oz) diced ham
2 tablespoons chopped chives or parsley
Salt and cayenne pepper
2 tablespoons melted butter
2 tablespoons freshly grated parmesan cheese

Prepare a Swiss roll tray about 30 by 35 cm (12 by 14 inches) by oiling or buttering it generously and lining it neatly with oiled or buttered greaseproof paper or baking parchment.

Melt the butter in a saucepan and stir in the flour. Cook the roux for a minute or two without allowing it to colour, then gradually add the milk, stirring constantly on a low heat to make a smooth sauce. Add the cheese and stir until it has melted completely, then take the sauce off the heat. Beat in the egg yolks one at a time and season the mixture generously.

Whisk the egg whites until they hold stiff peaks and fold the meringue into the cheese sauce. Turn the mixture on to the prepared tin and spread it evenly. Bake it in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 15 minutes, or until it is just firm.

As soon as it is out of the oven, cover the roulade with a tea-cloth and turn over the tin and cloth together, depositing the soufflé on the cloth. Peel off the paper.

To prepare the filling beat the curd or cream cheese until it is smooth, thinning it with a spoonful or two of milk or cream if it is too stiff to spread on the fragile soufflé mixture. Spread the cheese to within 1 cm (½ in) of the edges and sprinkle it with the ham, herbs and seasoning.

Now, using the cloth to fold the roulade, roll it loosely, Swiss-roll fashion, from one long side to the other.

Place the roulade on an ovenproof serving dish and brush it with the melted butter. Sprinkle with the grated parmesan and bake it for another 10 to 15 minutes at the same temperature. During this second baking the roulade will puff up and finish cooking. Serve it immediately.

Cherries are the usual fruit in clafoutis, a rich batter pudding that comes somewhere between custard and cake. Good cherries are hard to come by at this time of year, but Thompson seedless grapes from South America are in good supply.

Grape clafoutis
Serves four to six

450 g (1 lb) ripe seedless grapes
2 large eggs
85 g (3 oz) caster sugar
3 tablespoons plain flour
¼ teaspoon salt
150 ml (¼ pint) double cream
300 ml (½ pint milk)
2 tablespoons kirsch or cognac

Spread the grapes over the base of a well-buttered ovenproof dish. A china quiche dish is ideal.

Put the eggs and sugar in a bowl and beat them together until the mixture is thick and light. Add the flour and salt and beat until smooth, then gradually beat in the cream, milk and kirsch or cognac to make a light batter.

Pour the batter over the grapes and bake the pudding in a preheated moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 5) for about 45 minutes or until the clafoutis is golden brown on top and set, but not too firmly. Serve it hot or warm with a sprinkling of castor sugar on top and chilled cream or yoghurt.

THE TIMES DIARY

Washington gold

Now it can be told. More importantly, now it can be sold: a report, hushed up for the past 20 years, of how aspiring presidential candidate Richard Nixon traded gold with the Vietcong. It happened when Nixon visited Saigon in 1964 during a well publicized world trip. On his second day Nixon donned army gear with no identification and travelled on a secret mission to a village called An-Loc. There, in a clearing, he negotiated with a Vietcong lieutenant for the release of five US prisoners in exchange for a crate of gold bars. The prisoners were never identified, but sources suggest one may have been a US general's son. Hollis Kimmons, the sergeant involved, had no written orders, his clothes and camera film were destroyed, and he signed a 20-year agreement to secrecy. Now unbuttoned, Kimmons is offering the scrap of notebook paper on which Nixon scrawled his thanks to him – for $2,500.

Gin and bear it

That wimpish American mix of white wine and water was Nigel Lawson's poison yesterday, despite Booth's gin advertisement showing Lawson and his box. The humourless Treasury regards the ads as "very unethical" and is complaining to the Advertising Standards Authority. Lawson is shown in the ad with the caption "You, too, have a duty to your cabinet. Insist on High and Dry". After yesterday's budget, it seems that's just how he left us.

● **The outgoing Sogat '82 union leader, Bill Keys, has apparently been offered the job as the *Daily Mirror's* industrial consultant at £46,000 a year by Robert Maxwell. Keys, who, unlike Maxwell did not deny it yesterday, has turned his old friend down.**

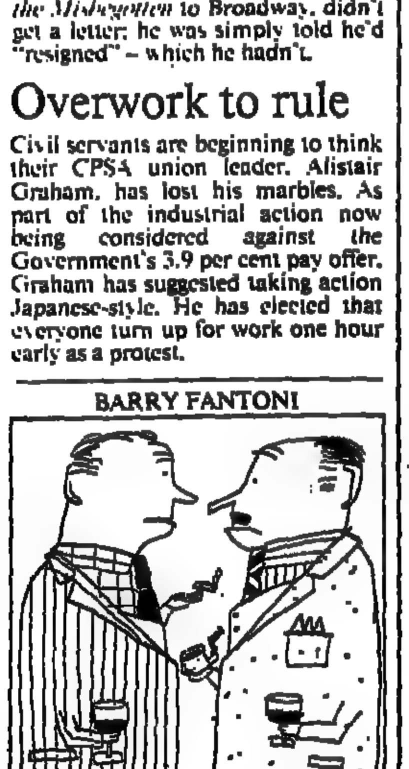
Walk-off parts

Another act in the continuing drama at Hammersmith's Riverside Studios, where the artistic director, David Gothard, was sacked as a condition of the GLC funding a fortnight ago. Nine letters have been dispatched on orders from the GLC, asking for redundancies with a six-month pay-off, including one to literary manager, Simon Usher, and technical manager, Rory Dempster. David Leveaux, who took the studio's production of *A Moon for the Misbegotten* to Broadway, didn't get a letter; he was simply told he'd "resigned" – which he hadn't.

Overwork to rule

Civil servants are beginning to think their CPSA union leader, Alistair Graham, has lost his marbles. As part of the industrial action now being considered against the Government's 3.9 per cent pay offer, Graham has suggested taking action Japanese-style. He has elected that everyone turn up for work one hour early as a protest.

BARRY FANTONI



'I'm a sort of arms manufacturer – I make seats for soccer stadiums'

All in a name

Scottish farmer Patrick Hope-Johnstone's bid to revive the long-dormant Earldom of Annandale and Hartsfell has hit trouble. Since my piece in January, several objections have been sent to the Lords privileges committee which considers his claim to the title in June. These come mainly from a branch of the family called Soutter, whose ancestors also blocked attempts by earlier Hope-Johnstones to claim the title last century. The earl who held the title in the 1650s is responsible for this prolonged dispute: having no male heir, he resigned the earldom to the Lord Protector, Richard Cromwell, so that a new earldom transferable through the female line could be created. The Hope-Johnstones lay claim to the second earldom, which petered out in 1792. The Soutters, who point to a nineteenth-century Lords ruling that the earl's resignation was invalid as Cromwell was an usurper, are searching for evidence to support their own claim to the first earldom. Expect a settlement sometime next century.

Headlines

Flavour of the month in public school circles is Tonbridge head Christopher Everett. He is my tip to succeed John Rae, who quits Westminster School next year "to seek a new challenge". Rae was still waiting for the big offer yesterday. The 6ft 4in Everett has no teacher training, having left the Foreign Office at the age of 36 to become head of Worksop College. He has been head of Tonbridge for the past 10 years: his nickname, boys, on a postcard please.

PHS

Budget with the seeds of reform

by Sarah Hogg

There is the seedcorn of a very welcome reform of personal taxation in this Budget. The Chancellor has taken on board the bias in the national insurance system against the unskilled unemployed looking for full-time work; and the bias in the system of personal income tax in favour of married couples who both work and against the family breadwinner with a non-working wife.

These distortions create social inequities: they are also singularly unhelpful to Nigel Lawson's attempts to lower unemployment. While the number of jobs in Britain has increased, on his figures, by about half a million in the past two years, too few of these new employees have come off the dole and the total number of jobless has gone on rising.

Most of the new jobs have gone to part-timers, whom the existing national insurance system makes about 20 per cent cheaper to employ. And most of these new part-timers were not previously on the dole but out of the labour force altogether – mainly married women, encouraged into employment by an income tax system which penalizes those who stay at home.

Mr Lawson has tackled the national insurance problem directly: by lowering the contributions of the lower-paid from nearly 20 per cent of earnings (from employees and employers) to 10 per cent, rising to the full rate only at £130 a week, he has reduced the massive incentive to employ part-timers below the national insurance threshold.

He has also, of course, increased take-home pay at the bottom of the earnings scale and so filled in part of the "poverty trap". This is a far better way of spending money on the reduction of labour costs than by spreading it right across the board through small overall reductions in national insurance rates.

There are, however, signs of obstructions ahead. Mr Lawson has abolished the upper limit on employers' national insurance, effectively making it even more like an ordinary payroll tax than it already is. But on the employees' side of the fence, the Government is still sticking to the "contributory principle" beloved by the Prime Minister; which means a pretence that national insurance is not just income tax under another name but genuinely "earns" social benefits.

For the moment – since the Government clearly has not decided what to do with the state earnings-related pension scheme – such caution was probably inevitable. It must not be allowed to stand in the way of sensible long-term reform.

We will have a much better idea of that by the autumn, on receipt of the Chancellor's promised Green Paper on personal taxation: for on income tax, he has given us only his thoughts, not action. Again this year, the basic allowances have been increased (those for the retired slightly less, in proportion, than for those of working age) quite uniformly: here Mr Lawson has undoubtedly gained the maximum of political satisfaction from the meagre resources at his disposal, but also dissipated their impact on the jobs market.

This seed bed of reform, in other words, is being given a long period of germination. The dull reason for this is, as usual, that it requires the full glories of the new Inland Revenue computers to effect automatic transfer of personal allowances from spouse to spouse. The essential element in Mr Lawson's plan for income tax is that married couples should each have a tax allowance whether or not they are both at work: a non-working partner should be able to contribute to the family's net income indirectly by transferring her (or his) allowance to the other partner.

Whether or not this technical excuse is enough, the Chancellor has other reasons for delay. The polite one is that he has acceded to requests for public consultation on such a sensitive area of taxation rather than tossing out tax decrees in the dictatorial manner enshrined by Britain's traditional budget system. Such consideration is, indeed a welcome concession to democracy but it is clear that it has been granted partly because the Chancellor is strapped for cash. The necessary restoration of his financial credibility has sliced nearly £3 bn off his £10 bn scope for tax cuts between now and the next general election, so reform in this Parliament has been made more difficult.

This is not because the change in allowances Mr Lawson has in mind would actually cost money: it would probably save a little revenue. It is because any reform needs to be sweetened by tax cuts all round, to disguise from those adversely affected the shift in the tax burden.

Not only has Mr Lawson scaled down his scope for tax cuts, he has also blocked off some alternative sources of revenue. Aside from what is wished on us by the EEC, we are not going to see major extensions of VAT this Parliament. This is, no doubt, a political tranquilliser: but its consequences for tax reforms are obvious.

It remains a disappointment, however, that Mr Lawson's thoughts on income tax restructuring were not sufficiently formed to take green-paper shape with this Budget – or even before. Some start could have been made, whatever the computers say.

As it is this vital reform will only be sprouting as the electoral threshing-machines comes trundling down the field. The last time the Tory government attempted serious reform of tax and benefits it was lost at the general election: to lose the opportunity twice would smack of carelessness.

Edward Mortimer on why 'Peace in Galilee' still seems remote

Peres, left, Shultz: mourning Shi'ite Muslims in front of a blasted Beirut building and demonstrators who hold the US to blame.

Will Peres bow out with his troops?

It is obvious by now that there will be no "solution" of the war in Lebanon. Israeli sources have confirmed that they do not intend to withdraw completely but plan to maintain a "security zone" which will be, to all intents and purposes, a recreation of the "Haddad-land" which existed before the invasion of June 6, 1982.

In that zone, according to unnamed "senior military figures" quoted by the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, "relatively large" Israeli forces will probably have to be concentrated "for a long-period" after the main withdrawal is over. In spite of this, the same figures expect that rockets fired from Lebanese territory will soon be landing again in northern Israel.

So the Lebanese anarchy will go on and Israel will probably not have the "peace in Galilee" which was the ostensible objective of the 1982 invasion. Indeed, it may well be too late now to secure that even, by an immediate and complete withdrawal.

The invasion did succeed in destroying the chaotic pseudo-state over which Yasser Arafat presided in West Beirut and South Lebanon before 1982: an ironic achievement considering that the nearest Arafat ever came to imposing discipline on his followers was in the scrupulous observance of the ceasefire on the Lebanese-Israeli border between July, 1981 and June, 1982.

In its place Israel now faces an indigenous population, predominantly Shi'ite Muslim, which is imbued with bitter personal hatred towards her and within which exist groups of religious extremists for whom Israel's very existence is an insult. They may well be eager to pursue the departing Israelis into their home territory, or at very least to harbour Syrian-sponsored, anti-Arafat Palestinian groups that will do so. Hence the expectation by those "senior military figures" of new rocket attacks.

Shimon Peres is shrewd enough to foresee this: no doubt he is resigned to it because he see no alternative. His objectives will be twofold: first, to keep the Israeli casualties to a minimum and, secondly, to ensure that the Israeli public draws the right political conclusion – not that it is wrong for his government to withdraw, but that it was disastrously wrong for the previous government to invade so far into Lebanon and to stay so long.

So far, it seems Peres is succeeding in the second objective. His popularity has increased greatly since he became prime minister (although that has been true of all previous Israeli prime ministers in their first year in office) and if he is under pressure from public opinion it is to speed up the withdrawal rather than slow it down. It is not certain, however, that the public mood will remain the same if and when the casualties begin to include civilians on the Israeli side

The other reason for Peres's popularity is that Israelis believe his government is dealing firmly and wisely with the economic crisis. This belief is not shared in Washington, as senior members of the Reagan administration have made clear in congressional testimony. According to George Shultz, US secretary of state, Israel's efforts to control its economy have been like clamping a lid on a boiling pot.

"You have to keep your eye less on holding the lid down and more on how high you've got the heat turned up," he told the Senate appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations recently. W. Allen Wallis, under-secretary of state for economic affairs, said: "The plan they have won't do the trick."

Washington wants Israel to move towards free-market doctrine and away from the government intervention and control which has been traditional under Labour and Likud governments alike. It believes Israel should do away with the indexation of wages and welfare benefits, and subsidies

It would like to see repeal of the law which requires the Bank of Israel to print money in whatever quantities are needed to cover the state deficit, and the creation of something like the US Office of Management of the Budget to ensure that government departments stay within their assigned spending limits. The US also favours a devaluation of the shekel by between 25 and 50 per cent.

This advice was put very firmly to Israel's finance minister, Yitzhak Moda'i, when he visited Washington in the first week of March, asking for $1.5 billion (£1.36 billion) to rebuild Israel's foreign currency reserves in addition to the regular economic aid (expected to be $1.2 billion in fiscal 1986) and the military grants of $1.8 billion. But the administration always negotiates with Israel from a position of weakness, because of the tendency of Congress to take Israel's side.

Old hands on Capitol Hill expect that Israel will get away with an $800 million "supplemental" in the financial year 1986, after conceding at best only some of the economic reforms suggested. That could well mean, in Wallis's words, that the $800 million "will disappear and their economy won't be any better off. They'll face bigger problems later on and they'll be back for more money, with worse problems." Or, as one seasoned Washington cynic put it to me: "It'll run out about the time Shamir takes over."

Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud and deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is due to replace Peres as prime minister in October 1986 under the agreement by which the coalition was formed last September. In fact, few people in Washington believe the government will survive that long. It is generally described as a "government of national paralysis", whose mandate enables it to deal only with the immediate crises of the economy and Lebanon.

Least of all is it capable of acting on a West Bank "peace initiative", which is one reason why American policy makers think it unwise to put pressure on the coalition to do so. Peres's own response to the latest Mubarak initiative was rather more positive than that, in public anyway, of the US administration.

The hope in Washington is that Peres will get credit from the Israeli electorate for the Lebanese withdrawal and for trying to cope with the economic problems, while the odium for any unpleasant decisions falls on the Likud ministers who hold the economic portfolios. The right moment for a peace initiative, which would split the government on the issue of the West Bank, would be when Peres's popularity is at its peak so that he can dissolve the government and hold new elections in which peace would be the main issue.

However, Washington does not control the timing, still less the content, of Arab peace moves, nor can it foresee with certainty the movement of Israeli public opinion. Indeed, Peres cannot call a general election whenever he feels like it: such a move needs a decision by the majority of the Knesset. The odds against peace are still heavy.

Managua gringos playing at Che

Boy George was singing "Do you really want to hurt me?" on the stereo of the luxury tourist bus as we nosed along narrow muddy roads north of Jinotega towards the banks of the River Wanks and the town of Wiwili in search of Nicaragua's "dirty war".

After many hours in the pretty countryside, our Sandinista guides apologized for the absence of any struggle against US imperialism. They could not discover the communal farm the Contras had not only located but burnt to the ground a few nights before. One young soldier riding shotgun with his AK-47 tried to ask two pony-tailed locals, who turned coyly away, giggled and walked on. He blushed.

The idea that the Sandinistas can find their way around their own country let alone invade someone else's took a knock that day. Our bus driver was delighted, regarding us as an atrocity looking for somewhere to happen. But the trip did provide an opportunity to observe a political animal long thought extinct: the *internacionalista*.

On the two gleaming "press" charabancs there were but three of us who earned our crusts from scribbling. The rest were *internacionalistas*, a volunteer species of fervent verbal commitment if vague purpose last seen in Spain circa 1936 and whose fate is documented in Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*.

Most revolutionary regimes around the world have read about the chaos in Spain and wouldn't touch these adventure-seeking groupies with a barge pole. But because the Managua government needs doctors and nurses it has, until now, been prepared to let them in.

The medics have the rough end of the deal: on landing they are whisked into the jungle or remote hills to spend six gruelling months dodging Contra death squads. They go back home with a life-long phobia about anything more tropical than a cheese plant. A few aid workers are in the same category.

The other sort of *internacionalista* owes more to Harry Lime than Florence Nightingale. They have realized they can live like belted earls in the capital for next to nothing. The official exchange rate is between 10-40 cordobas to the dollar while the black market rate is 400-500. Some Nicaraguans say the American invasion has already taken place.

This sort of "int" rarely leaves the pleasant locale around the Hotel Intercontinental which has been dubbed Gringoland. Here he can meet other members of the new aristocracy and wile away the whole day by the poolside munching lobster and drinking beer for a shocking four dollars.

As a consequence Lord Gringoland is quite portly but with very long hair, an earring and bundles of old revolutionary newspapers under his arm to give the impression he is working. Lady Gringoland agonizes about the way the "Niquos" treat women but lusts after the dashing commandantes.

Formerly the Gringolands justified their existence by toiling for a month or so on a well-guarded coffee plantation but the government is coming round to the view it is better to have the berries drop than the bushes ruined. Most pampered "ints" developed dysentery at the sight of these do-it-yourself gulags.

The attraction was that those working on the farms have to do a whole week of military training. Actually having a gun in the jungle and playing Che is heaven for the *internacionalista*. They can claim to have "fought" just like the people in Spain. Needless to say horrific accidents, some fatal, have resulted.

So it is safer for all concerned to let the Gringolands join a press party. They can still boast about having been to the battle zone even if they never go out of the air-conditioned coach supervised by the delightful "nannies" from the press office who all resemble Bianca Jagger, wear Fiorucci jeans and read Italian *Vogue*.

What offends many thinking Nicaraguans is that these people tend to take home the same rosy view of the revolution with which they arrive. In the zone explored by our bus, soldiers admit that combat body counts are exaggerated to Vietnam proportions. Shortages of toilet paper and the rest, for ordinary people, are made more acceptable if the army is winning great victories.

"Who needs toilet paper anyway?" said one merry *internacionalista*. "If I get depressed I just buy a bottle of Flor de Caña rum and get wasted. It's wonderful." Homage, as they say, to Catatonia.

Paul Pickering

Francis Pym

Yield that would bear fruit

The economic, social and human costs of the miners' strike have been immense. The issues it has raised are still unresolved. But it has had some redeeming features. It may have divided opinions deeply, but it has also crystallized the issues.

Perhaps most importantly, the opportunity for a constructive dialogue between the Government and the TUC has emerged. If that opportunity is now taken, something of great value will have been salvaged from the wreckage of the last 12 months.

The role of the TUC, and of Norman Willis in particular, in the closing weeks of the strike was significant, although it should not be exaggerated. Contrary to Arthur Scargill's belief, the TUC did not betray the mining industry, nor did its actions imply any new-found support for Government policy. However, the TUC did choose decisively to reject the political vandalism and economic insanity of the NUM leadership. It aligned itself firmly on the side of democracy and common sense: an alignment that has sometimes been in doubt over the last decade and more.

If the Government is wise it will build on that beginning. For the last six years it has studiously avoided formal contact with union leaders. In the beginning this was defensible: there was strong support throughout the country for a reduction in the unions' economic and political power. But ultimately this lack of dialogue is untenable. If government, industry and unions cannot find some way of reconciling their differences and working in partnership, the likelihood of economic regeneration will remain remote.

The case for a partnership is both immediate and immense. British industry is less competitive internationally than it was six years ago. There is a need for a dramatic further improvement in productivity. There is a need to introduce new technology as rapidly as possible. There is a need to restrain wage increases and reduce inflation further. There is a need to create an industrial climate which attracts new investment to the country. The Government cannot cause these things to happen, but its actions substantially affect their likelihood. Without union support, the changes will take place slowly, if at all. Without the changes, economic progress is impossible.

The Government has one major obstacle to overcome in securing union support for the necessary changes. Nearly four million people are already out of work. Most productivity improvements will cause a further short-term rise in unemployment; new technology may well cause a long-term rise. In the present circumstances, how can the TUC be expected to connive at the continued erosion of jobs?

For several years, union leaders have had to make an unenviable choice. Either (like Bill Sirs and others) they have had to accept widespread redundancies among their members, while trying to secure the best available terms. Or (like Arthur Scargill) they have refused to accept redundancies and, in consequence, have espoused a policy that will lead to the economic destruction of their industries. That is not much of a choice for a union leader to make, but it remains the only effective one.

It is in the interests of both the Government and the country as a whole that union leaders should be encouraged towards the first alternative. They can do so with honour only if far more attention is paid to the future of those who are out of work. The Government needs to do more for unemployment and more for public and private-sector investment than it has done hitherto. Only then will union leaders genuinely be able to feel that, despite short-term job losses, they are acting in the true long-term interests of all their members.

A new partnership needs the right climate and firm political will on both sides. The end of the miners' strike provides a favourable climate. The responsibility shown by the TUC at its close indicates how much has changed within the unions in recent years. The question now concerns the political will of the Government.

The Government will not want to see, and nor do I, a return to the hollow consensus of the Wilson/Callaghan years. There is no future in that. However, the harm done at that time was caused not by the existence of a consensus, but by the false principles on which it was based. A true consensus is now required, and that will involve some compromise on both sides.

Addressing the 1922 Committee last summer, the Prime Minister spoke of the need to build on the relationship with the unions once the strike was over. Now is the time to put that into practice. We are already in the post-industrial society and all the change that implies. The Government should create a relationship with unions and management in a co-operative spirit, not an interfering one.

Each party has its distinctive roles and responsibilities, but all are working to the same end, the prosperity of the nation. Each must accept they cannot have everything their own way. If the Government chooses not to yield an inch on its policies, not to attempt any rapprochement except wholly on its own terms, it will ultimately undermine its own objectives more surely than by any other means. What does not bend will break, and that is as true for governments as it has been shown to be for the NUM leadership.

"It isn't the winning or losing: it's the securing of futures." That remark was made by a striking miner some months ago. It could equally well have been made by the Government or the National Coal Board. Somehow the chasm between how each side interprets those words must be bridged. We must learn to work through shared objectives to a shared future. That is the challenge that remains in the wake of the strike.

The author, a former foreign secretary, is Conservative MP for South-East Cambridgeshire.

moreover . . . Miles Kington

More heat and dust, less light

Gandhi, *Jewel in the Crown*, *Heat and Dust*, *The Far Pavilions* and now *A Passage to India* – it sometimes seems that a new film about India is opening every week. We are, it is said, smitten by India, even obsessed by the place. This is rubbish, of course. We are obsessed by the British connexion with India, which is a very different thing, and these films are not really about India at all, but about the British. When I was in India in February the talk there was not about *A Passage to India*, but about the latest film being shot there, an epic based on that well-known Indian citizen, Lord Mountbatten, in which the Pakistan leader Jinnah, incidentally, is being played by a Polish actor.

Well, it's all very understandable. Most of us go to a foreign country, or visit it in our imagination, in order to feed our preconceptions, not to learn from scratch. An Indian tourist official in Delhi told me that he could almost infallibly tell the nationality of a European visitor merely from what he or she displayed an interest in, or had prior knowledge of. The British were geared to Indian history, especially the history of the Raj. The French wanted to see Indian art, especially erotic temple carvings. The Germans, on the other hand, displayed most interest in Indian philosophy.

And the Americans?

"Ah, the Americans are most interested in Inter-Continental hotels. That and Indian poverty. They love being shocked by the poverty in India. It is strange, really; they have very interesting poverty at home which they do not seem to notice."

Cynical, perhaps, but the Americans seem to have come very late to an interest in, or knowledge of, India. History has not thrown them together much, nor has Bhopal done a great deal to help. Besides, America has recently been more interested in supporting General Zia in Pakistan, and India has always had very strong friendly links with Russia – it was in a Russian spaceshot that India's only astronaut ascended.

Still, American ignorance is inexcusable sometimes. During the Iranian hostage saga five years ago, when anti-Iranian feeling was running high in the US, several Indians were attacked by American citizens on the grounds that they were probably Iranian, and I remember reading an account of a Sikh in California who was actually besieged in his house on the grounds that he wore a turban. I brought this up in Delhi.

"I was that man," said Mr K. B. Singh, one of those present. "Admittedly, there were some Iranians living in the neighbourhood, but I remember well having my house daubed in anti-Iranian slogans and undergoing the whole treatment. It is hard for a Sikh to have to suffer for the sake of the Ayatollah."

"When I went to America for the first time," said another Indian, "people were chiefly amazed by how well I spoke English. You have picked it up so quickly, they kept telling me. I gave up trying to explain after a while, and just basked in my intellectual aura."

Perhaps Americans will emerge better educated this summer after the massive cultural invasion of the Festival of India, which is geared to the idea that other people have lived in India besides the British, a lesson which we might learn as well. It was sometimes stressed to me in India that the British, whatever their faults, had behaved with total religious tolerance and had never, unlike the Muslim invaders, interfered with belief.

Not quite true, actually. Reading the history of the British army chapel in Madras, I found they were intensely worried by one neighbouring religious establishment. It was the French Catholic church in Madras. Talk about taking one's preconceptions abroad . . .

"By the way," said K. B. Singh suddenly at the end of our international seminar, "do you know what is the best possible lifestyle of all? It is to have an American salary, a Japanese wife, Chinese cooking and a British mansion."

I had never thought of that.

"And do you know what is the *worst* possible lifestyle? It is to have an American wife, a Japanese home, a Chinese salary and British cooking."

Truly an international story, displaying intimate knowledge of four nations, none of them the speaker's own. Perhaps we have some unexpected things to learn from the Indians.

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

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TOMORROW'S RADICAL

In his first Budget, Mr Lawson established a reputation for radicalism as a tax reformer, but a consolidator in his approach to financial policy. His changes to corporation tax were sweeping and exciting; his restatement of the medium-term financial strategy was unadventurous and suggested only a lukewarm commitment to further reductions in inflation. In his second Budget Mr Lawson has been unable to match the radicalism of last year's tax reforms, but he has tried hard to present himself as rather more than a consolidator in anti-inflation policy.

The importance of the anti-inflation theme was emphasized several times in the Budget speech itself. But Mr Lawson knows very well that words are not enough in themselves. Instead financial markets and decision-takers in industry will take his good intentions seriously only if they are backed up by hard numbers. Moreover, the numbers must reflect realistic, credible assumptions about the economy and variables critical to the financial outlook, such as interest rates and the oil price.

Mr Lawson's task has been made harder because, in the event, 1984-85 was not a year of financial consolidation but of financial slippage. Well-intentioned rhetoric in last year's Budget did not protect the Treasury's arithmetic from over-runs in public expenditure, the cost of the miners' strike or the damage to public finances from higher interest rates. The public sector borrowing requirement turned out at £10½ billion, almost 50 per cent above the target. Mr Lawson has had to restore confidence in his projections for 1985-86 because his performance on the financial front was unconvincing in 1984-85.

On the whole, Mr Lawson has done a good job. He has kept to the PSBR target of £7 billion envisaged for this year in the last medium-term strategy. It can be argued that he should have lowered the target, particularly in view of the remarkable buoyancy of North Sea revenues. (These revenues are now expected to be £13½ billion in 1985/86, £4 billion more than the figure forecast a year ago). But the adoption of a lower target would have raised suspicions that the Government was once again manipulating numbers to suit the City rather than adjusting its own behaviour to maintain a truly sound financial position.

Mr Lawson has also been frank about the extent of the *deterioration in public expenditure control. He has added* £2 billion to the contingency reserve in 1985/86 and later years and increased estimates of debt interest sharply. No one can accuse the Government of fudging the figures after changes as large as this. The expanded contingency reserve is, in principle, to meet unforeseen claims on public spending. But it could equally act as a first-line of defence for the PSBR targets if oil revenues were to suffer from the break-up of OPEC.

But the return to fiscal honesty has been at a heavy cost. Most fundamentally, the Government's plans for substantial reductions in the net tax burden have had to be suspended. The various tax cutting measures announced yesterday amount to only £730 million in 1985/86 a much smaller sum than the Government and its supporters would have liked. Because Mr Lawson has correctly and responsibly reaffirmed the primacy of financial control, the failures with public expenditure have led to failures in the programme to cut taxes.

The Chancellor's moves on tax reform may also give the impression of a Government cramped by a conflict of objectives. The proposed Green Paper on personal income taxation will hinder large adjustments in the structure of allowances until it has been published, with the earliest date for new legislation being 1987. Perhaps the Green Paper method is the right one for major alterations to the tax regime, but this looks too much like delayed radicalism. There is an obvious contrast with the welcome celerity of the corporation tax reforms last year.

The charge of delayed radicalism could also be levelled against the changes in national insurance rates. As the Government has kept the lower earnings limit at only £35.50 a week, many very low-paid workers and their employers will have to meet this administratively and financially irritating imposition. Would it not have been much better to have raised the limit to £60 or £70 a week and taken many workers out of the national insurance net entirely?

In the long run this may indeed be possible, but it is a cardinal principle of the Beveridgean welfare state that people are entitled to benefits only if they have contributed to its costs. In other words, workers qualify for national insurance benefits because they have been making contributions, even from very low incomes. Mr Lawson had to respect the contributory principle in this Budget, but the whole question of the interaction of tax and social security has now been placed at the centre of the fiscal debate. That by itself is a radical and worthwhile shift.

M MITTERRAND'S MOVE

With a year to go to the next general election, France's Socialist government has, on the face of it, very little hope of staying in power. In nationwide local elections the Sunday before last, the Socialist party won only 25 per cent of the votes. The two main opposition parties – Giscardian and Gaullist – won 36 per cent between them, while unclassified opposition candidates won a further 13. The Communists, formerly (but no longer) allied to the Socialists, won less than 13 per cent, and the far-right National Front nearly nine per cent.

The run-off ballot this Sunday clinched the victory of the right, giving it control of 69 of the 95 departmental councils in France. In spite of this the results have given a glimmer of hope to President Mitterrand, and to the government of M Laurent Fabius – if only because they are slightly less bad for the left than the European elections last June.

M Fabius has come into office since then and has given the government a pragmatic no-nonsense style. The Communists have left the government, thereby depriving the opposition of one of its most telling electoral arguments; but although they have roundly and repeatedly abused the Socialists for reneging on their left-wing commitments, they felt obliged to advise their supporters to vote on the second ballot for the best-placed left-wing candidate – and their supporters obeyed. Similarly the National Front leader, M Jean-Marie Le Pen, though he was after some hesitation ostracized for his racialist demagoguery by the orthodox right-wing parties, nonetheless told his supporters to vote for them where they were ahead on the first ballot.

Such is the logic of the two-ballot single-member constituency system which France has used consistently for parliamentary elections under the Fifth Republic. It tends to polarise politics between right and left while allowing several parties to coexist within each side, using the first ballot to sort out their relative strengths.

Like any single-member constituency system, this one also tends to give a premium to majorities and to penalise minorities. For this reason oppositions tend to dislike it and M Mitterrand, as opposition candidate in 1981, had pledged himself to replace it with a proportional system. He has been quite consistent about this, so it is unfair for the present opposition, which has every expectation of becoming the majority next year, to accuse him of trying to rush through a proportional system now simply with the aim of saving his own party from overwhelming defeat. It is a pity all the same, if he was going to do it, that he did not introduce the necessary legislation early in his term of office. Whatever change he makes now will inevitably look as if it is tailor-made for this particular election.

Specifically, it will look as if M Mitterrand wants to bring the extreme right into parliament simply in order to prevent the orthodox right winning an overall majority, and so to enable himself, as president, to play off the parties against each other and construct an artificial centrist or centre-left majority. Whether that is really his intention no one knows, though it is difficult to imagine him, after five years of supreme power, cheerfully settling down to spend the last two years of his presidency as a figurehead president "inaugurating chrysanthemums", as de Gaulle put it, while allowing his opponents to get on with governing the country. But if he wants to avoid that, he could always resign – a more elegant and a worthier course than to resort to obscure parliamentary manoeuvres to prevent a government with a clear programme from taking office.

CLEARING THE AUSTRALIAN AIR

The Australian Royal Commission investigating the conduct of the British nuclear tests in Australia thirty years ago returns home this week with the evidence it has harvested during its three-month stay in London. After persuading a reluctant Whitehall to ignore the thirty-year-rule on the release of official secrets, the commissioners are leaving in a somewhat better temper than when they arrived.

They also left better informed. There are several more months of evidence to be heard in Australia, but it is already likely that the thrust of the commission's eventual findings will concentrate on assessing the good faith and competence of those running the tests and follow-up activities, rather than on the unresolved scientific questions of health risks posed by low-level fallout contamination. It is important to recall that the commission's terms of reference ask for judgements to be made against the knowledge and standards of the time; many pre-emptive judgements have already been made both here and in Australia by the more critical standards of today. Nevertheless, enough evidence has now been extracted from archives and witnesses to undermine the bland and brief reassurances which Britain has issued at regular intervals since the tests.

The British government's co-operation in the investigations should continue until the air is cleared. We owe Australia a considerable debt, which, it turns out, is being paid in slow instalments. Although Britain may have already fulfilled its formal liabilities to the land and people affected by the tests, it will not pay us to quibble mean-mindedly over reasonable requests for further reparation.

Principle and self-interest now coincide. The commission's report is likely to appear early next year, a few months before the biennial conference of Mr Bob Hawke's ruling Labour Party. Mr Hawke faces a powerful left wing which is vocal on all issues nuclear, ranging from weapons to the controversial programme of uranium mining and export. His opponents have alleged that he only appointed the Royal Commission to distract attention from his other nuclear problems.

The exploitation of the uranium arouses powerful feeling among the Australian electorate and its export to Britain and France is governed by separate safeguards agreements. Exports to France have already been suspended because of public opposition to French nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific. Improbable as it may seem at first sight, the controversy over Britain's behaviour thirty years ago may have some impact on the uranium issue.

The commission's findings on the British tests therefore need to be treated by both governments as a self-contained issue as far as possible. If mistrust of British conduct and motives persists after the commission has deliberated and recommended, the conditions could be created for the row to spill over elsewhere. The recent ANZUS row has demonstrated how these disagreements can come to threaten allied defence arrangements. It is not in the interests of Britain or the western alliance for anti-nuclear feeling to be boosted by continuing suspicion of misconduct between friends.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Balancing views of nuclear defence

From Professor Sir Ronald Mason, FRS

Sir, There cannot be many who, having heard the Foreign Secretary's presentation at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies and subsequently read the text, will understand the reason for the emotional, almost hysterical, outburst of today's leading article (March 18).

Inter alia, it seemed to me that Sir Geoffrey Howe was:

1. Continuing the Government's support of the research phase of the strategic defence initiative, confirming that Government policy would continue to be based on the four heads of agreement reached by the President and Prime Minister at their December Camp David meeting.
2. Recognising the Soviet Union's capabilities in ballistic missile defence and their current research programmes.
3. Clearly defining important questions and issues which should be addressed during the research programme (which will inevitably change in emphasis and objectives).
4. Making it clear that developments in technology and systems should move in parallel with thinking on strategic issues and policies.
5. Recognising the separation of research and the development/deployment of ballistic and cruise missile defences and prudently pointing out the problems of managing a transfer from one strategic posture to another.

As one who has followed the development of the initiative, even prior to the presidential announcement of March, 1983, I would suggest that last week's constructive clarification of the objectives of a research programme can only help to demonstrate the deep common perceptions on mutual assured *defence* which are held within the Alliance.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD MASON,
102 Beatty House,
Dolphin Square, SW1.
March 18.

From Mr D. J. Gold

Sir, May I disagree profoundly with your shortsighted leading article, "Howe's UDI from SDI".

Many of us are tired of the posturings of the superpowers – both of them – and we look forward to the day, if it ever comes, when this country takes its place seriously in the EEC and works for a strong, united Europe as a third force.

I congratulate the Foreign Secretary for his perspicacity in saying what he did. Although I have great admiration for the USA as a country I am appalled at the way Britain has become just a satellite of it.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD J. GOLD,
35 Kiln Road,
Emmer Green,
Reading,
Berkshire.
March 18.

From the Bishop of Bath and Wells

Sir, I write as a Tory voter to say how sad I am about your hysterical reaction to Sir Geoffrey Howe's most welcome speech. I would guess that he has voiced the feelings of millions of Americans, Russians – and British. If a layman may be permitted to say so, he seems to me to have expressed in a very moderate way the vital "initiative" role which the United Kingdom can play in these long term life and death matters.

Yours faithfully,
†JOHN BATH AND WELLS,
The Palace,
Wells, Somerset.
March 18.

Handing on the Tory 'leasehold'

From Sir Kenneth Lewis, MP for Stamford and Spalding (Conservative)

Sir, Some Conservatives in Westminster and outside are charging Edward Heath with re-writing history in his television broadcast on the events in 1975 (report, March 14) when Margaret Thatcher was elected leader of the Conservative Party at Westminster.

I do not do that. But I do think Mr Heath misunderstands and therefore, in his broadcast, misinterprets, the history of that time.

Edward Heath stated on television:

> I think that the general campaign organized by her (Margaret Thatcher's) people, for example, that I had said I was going to be leader of the Conservative Party for life... was grossly untrue and unfair.

This is a misinterpretation of the facts at that time. It is now part of history that the phrase "The leadership of the Conservative Party is a leasehold and not a freehold" was my phrase, made in a speech to the 1922 Committee.

This speech was in opening a debate to establish whether the parliamentary party wished to set up voting procedures to determine whether to stay with Edward Heath as leader or have a change. It was made long before Margaret Thatcher had entered the lists as a candidate for the leadership. Mr Heath therefore misinterprets on this

It was as a result of that meeting of the 1922 Committee, and the response to that debate, that Edward Heath decided to ask Lord Home to establish a method of election and re-election of the leader of the party.

Clearly, however, Edward Heath only accepted this reluctantly. Once the new system of voting was put into operation he made it clear, by calling for loyalty to himself from the then members of his Shadow Cabinet, who had also been members of his Cabinet in government, that he sought to make the vote a walkover for himself.

This was a great miscalculation. If, having agreed to establish voting procedures, Edward Heath had encouraged any members of his Shadow Cabinet to stand in the first round – it happened in the second round – he might well have come out better in the voting. There would undoubtedly have been a greater split in the vote. Who can now tell what the result of that might have been?

It is certain that the known reluctance of Edward Heath to have an open election did not do him any good, and that was his doing and nobody else's. He is entitled now to differ with the present leadership on policy but not on how Margaret Thatcher was elected leader in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEWIS,
House of Commons.
March 16.

Redefining co-existence

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, Mr Gorbachov in his search for improved relations with Western democracies must know that "peaceful co-existence" stands in need of redefinition.

As long ago as 1918 it described moratorium on the fundamental objective – world socialism – until such time as process of internal consolidation had been achieved. That moratorium was lifted by the Communist Party programme of 1961, if not long before. At all events since 1961 the external policy of the Soviet Union has been overtly expansionist and interventionist.

The drafting process for the 1977 Constitution started in 1961 and it contained a new chapter [Chapter 4] on foreign policy. In this chapter article 28 links "peaceful co-existence" with the "ideological struggle" to "consolidate the position of world socialism". Within such context the International Department of Higher Schools of Trade Unions in Moscow, and other agencies of indoctrination and subversion, have been set up to operate; and operate.

Without changes in external policy has "peaceful co-existence" anything on offer for the West?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY,
House of Lords.
March 14.

Anatomy of SDP

From Dr D. Hassall

Sir, I wish to reply to Mr Fox's letter of March 8 about the present state of affairs in the SDP.

If inter-personal strife is the most important factor in determining whether a political party should hang together or not, then it is quite clear that both the Labour and Conservative parties should immediately split asunder.

The two major parties have been able to form governments only because of their common sense in subjugating personal differences and self-righteous grievances in the common cause of largely agreed policies.

If the SDP and the Liberal Party are not going to unite into one permanent Alliance Party, then perhaps they would be good enough to inform the electorate as soon as possible. If they decide to retain separate identities, then should they not take the next logical step of putting up both Liberal and SDP candidates in each constituency at the next general election?

I fear that if the present wrangling continues a great many potential supporters will simply abstain from voting next time.

Yours sincerely,
DOROTHY HASSALL,
42 The Street,
Puttenham,
Guildford,
Surrey.
March 11.

Vanished supremacies

From Mr A. C. Wilding

Sir, In today's second leader ("All honourable members", March 15) you observe: "The prevailing climate has not fostered the survival of older notions of honourable behaviour among colleagues, or of loyalty to formal allegiances."

Have you the nerve and inspiration to go for the gold and hazard a leader (or half a leader, or even a paragraph in the Diary) about why this dismal situation has developed, how we can reverse it and who should take the lead?

Yours faithfully,
A. C. WILDING,
20 Heathbrow Road,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire.
March 15.

A world of difference

From Major Patrick Lort-Phillips.

Sir, It is nice to see that, in spite of the recent fluctuations in the fortunes of the pound, one bastion of the old order still keeps a proper sense of values.

My wife has just received her Harrods Spring catalogue. The price – £1.50 or US$5.50.!

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK LORT-PHILLIPS,
9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's),
661 Squadron Army Air Corps,
BFPO 102.
March 14.

School closures

From Mr Peter Lacy

Sir, As chairman of the governing body of an inner-city school in Coventry I feel it is a matter of public duty to present the following facts:

Coventry city, once the thriving centre of the prosperous West Midlands, is now so beset with financial difficulties that it is considering the wholesale closure of some of its schools and the dismantling of its community education and comprehensive system.

The school, which I am proud to represent as chairman of governors, is a multi-cultural school and community college with national and international prestige. Coventry's policies for multi-cultural education and harmony are well known and certainly contributed to our avoiding some of the more serious racial problems of 1981. This new school is to close. Its closure will be the beginning of the end of Coventry's social, economic and racial policies.

Thus the inhumanity of Government local authority policy is brought to bear upon those least able to sustain it: the poor, the disadvantaged and the children.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LACY,
Barr's Hill School and Community College,
Radford Road,
Coventry, West Midlands.

Farming on the fringe

From Mr M. J. Thompson

Sir, David Nicholson-Lord's perceptive article (March 12) highlights the threat to urban environmental improvement posed by the Government's proposed abolition of the metropolitan counties and the GLC.

South Yorkshire County Council is active in many of these areas and is of course the coalfield county council. By reclaiming over 500 hectares (1,235 acres) of colliery wasteland, valiant efforts have been made to improve the environment and the economic attractiveness of South Yorkshire. It seems particularly hard on the mining communities that such an active agent of improvement should be swept away.

Amongst other initiatives, we are involved in a joint project with the Ministry of Agriculture Agricultural Development and Advisory Service in costing the financial and other penalties of farming in the urban fringe. This work is unique in that it is applied research of national significance which has been endorsed or adopted by a number of bodies and individuals, including the Countryside Commission, the National Farmers' Union, Operation Groundwork and three Groundwork trusts, Dr Alice Coleman, the Town and Country Planning Association, and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland.

The tragedy is that if the metropolitan counties are abolished this valuable work will most certainly vanish. It deserves better than that.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE THOMPSON,
County Planning Officer,
South Yorkshire County Council,
Department of Planning and Architecture,
County Hall,
Barnsley,
South Yorkshire.
March 13.

Beyond recall

From Mrs Claire Freer

Sir, In Sydney last month, I saw what appeared to be a red telephone box in the front garden of a terraced house. On closer examination, it turned out to be a genuine phone box, but converted into a porch by the simple expedient of removing the back wall of the booth. It looked completely out of place (as it obviously was) but had the merit for me, as a tourist, of being amusing and memorable.

Yours faithfully,
CLAIRE FREER,
Tamarisk,
Stoneman's Hill, Abbotskerswell,
Newton Abbot, Devon.

Multiplication of tasks

From Mrs Carole A. Boyd

Sir, I write in response to the March 9 letter of Mr John Mann. He is correct that every American board of education negotiates pay and conditions with its own employees. However, not every American school board employs a negotiator.

Our district, for example, the largest in the state of Delaware, has never employed a negotiator. Preferring to keep employee relations on a more personal basis, we use a negotiating team made up of our director of personnel and other administrators, including principals. That team sits with the teachers' association team and arrives at mutually satisfactory negotiated agreement.

The agreement must, of course, be officially approved by the association's membership and our school board, the body which also sets the district's annual budget. We of the elected school board are both responsible and accountable.

As testimony to the efficiency and widespread support of our model, the Christina School District can proudly point to its record of rapidly settled negotiations, no strikes, mutual respect, high employee morale, outstanding diligence and productivity on the part of teaching staff and consistently high student performance on national standardized tests.

Our district is highly diversified, containing both urban and suburban communities, operating under a federal court-ordered desegregation plan and serving approximately a 35 per cent minority population. Strong parental involvement and commitment to both the concept and the reality of public education, combined with the dedicated professionalism of Christina School District employees, have made ours a district to be proud of.

Sincerely yours,
CAROLE A. BOYD (President, Christina Board of Education),
9 Elsworthy Road, NW3.
March 9.

Jobs on demand

From Mr P. A. Pennant-Rea

Sir, Recently there has been a great emphasis placed, principally by opposition politicians, upon the creation of jobs. They seem to overlook the fact that the creation of jobs is quite useless unless a demand is first identified, and one which can be satisfied within appropriate economic limits.

Anyone can create jobs, but the difficult bit is to spot the demand and then act to satisfy it at the right time and in the right way.

We should have learned this from de Lorean and Learfan, to mention but two schemes of job-creation.

Yours truly,
P. A. PENNANT-REA
Laurel Tree Cottage,
Guiting Power,
Nr Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.
March 10

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 20 1917

Nicholas II (1868-1918) was czar of Russia 1894 to 1917. He was compelled to abdicate in March 1917 – February in the Old Style calendar, hence the "February Revolution". His brother the Grand Duke Michael declined to accept the crown, an act which led Kerensky to exclaim "Your Highness, you are a noble man!" Nicholas and his family were murdered on July 16 1918 at Ekaterinburg (now Sverdlovsk).

THE TSAR'S FINAL ORDEAL

SIGNING THE ACT OF ABDICATION

(From Our Own Correspondent)

PETROGRAD, SATURDAY

EVENING.–I have been able to obtain a full and authentic version of the events attending the Tsar's abdication. It appears that Nicholas II on reaching Bologoe Station [half-way between Petrograd and Moscow] was advised not to proceed to Petrograd and wisely did not attempt to enter the capital, preferring to goon to Pskoff [General Ruzsky's headquarters, about 220 miles due west of Bologoe, and half-way between Petrograd and Dvinsk], and there learn his fate. To the members of his suit he said, "The revolutionary wave will probably sweep away the Monarchy." He was then already prepared for the worst.

M. Alexander Gutchkoff and the Conservative Deputy M. Shulgin were commissioned by M. Rodzianko to go to General Ruzsky's headquarters. They arrived there on Thursday. The ill-fated Monarch received them in a small dimly-lit room. He looked pale and careworn, but was perfectly calm and self-possessed.

Addressing Gutchkoff he said, "Tell me the whole truth."

"We come to tell you that all the troops in Petrograd are on our side. It is useless to send more regiments. They will go over as soon as they reach the station."

"I know that it," replied the Tsar. "The order has already been given to the troops to return to the front."

Then, after a slight pause, the Tsar asked, "What do yo wantme to do?"

"Your Majesty must abdicate in favour of the Heir-Apparent under the Regency of the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch. Such is the will of the new Goverment, which we are forming under Prince Lvoff."

"I cannot part with my boy," replied the Monarch, with emotion. "I shall hand the Throne to my brother."

Then, speaking in a matter-of-fact tone, he said, "Have you a piece of paper?"

Then and there the manifesto was drafted. Count Fredericks, Minister of the Imperial Household (whose brother was arrested in Petrograd), and the Tsar's Aide-de-Camp assisted their master in his final ordeal. Soon the document lay on the writing table. Befoe signing it he wrote out orders appointing Prince Lvoff Prime Minister and the Grand Duke Nicholas Generalissimo.

Then, bowing his head for a few moments, he dipped his pen, and without a trace of emotion for the last time appended his signature as Tsar of All the Russias to the writ of abdication.

The whole scene occupied only a few minutes. Remorseless fate pursues Nicholas II. Even before his abdication he knew his children were all seriously ill with measles and that his beloved only son was in serious danger of death.

Budget origins

From Mr H. S. Cobb

Sir, The statement in the article, "Origins of the Budget" (March 14) that the Jewel Tower, Westminster, is the "oldest surviving physical embodiment of the Treasury" is almost certainly incorrect. The Pyx Chamber of Westminster Abbey would appear to have been in use as a royal treasury by 1249 and it was regarded primarily as a strong room – the strict preserve of the Treasury and Exchequer – until late in the nineteenth century.

The Jewel Tower was built in 1365-66 to house the Sovereign's private and personal treasure and continued to be used for that purpose until the reign of Henry VIII. By 1621 the Jewel Tower had become the repository for the records of the House of Lords, which remained there until they were transferred to the Victoria Tower in 1864.

Yours,
H. S. COBB,
Clerk of the Records,
Record Office,
House of Lords,
March 15.

Truly dreadful

From Mr P. S. Johnson

Sir, Further to your correspondence of March 7 and 12 on the "City of Dreadful Night", your readers may be interested to know that the original city was neither Lahore nor Calcutta, but London, dubbed so by the Scottish poet, James Thomson, whose poem by that title appeared in the *National Reformer* in 1874 under the signature B. V. (Bysshe Vanolis) over 10 years before Kipling's articles under that heading.

I would therefore imagine Kipling must have adopted this title purely unwittingly, though this could be a debatable point.

Yours faithfully,
P. S. JOHNSON,
23 Middleton Road,
Felpham, West Sussex.

Silver lining

From Mrs Dorothea T. Luthman

Sir, Long ago, in my childhood days in Edinburgh, we knew an old lady who tried to cheer up a wet day by sending us what she called a Rainy Day Greetings. If, at breakfast time, it was raining, she sent us a picture post card, with a ½d stamp on it, and we received it by the midday post.

I wonder how many times the weather would change nowadays between posting and delivering a RDG?

I am, yours sincerely,
DOROTHEA T. LUTHMAN,
92 Ducks Hill Road,
Northwood, Middlesex.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 19: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Captain Chandrabahadur Pun and Captain Chintabahadur Gurung (The Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers) had the honour of being received by The Queen, when Her Majesty invested them with the Insignia of Members of the Royal Victorian Order.

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania visited The Queen and remained to luncheon.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were present.

The following had the honour of being invited: the Hon Benjamin Mkapa (Minister for Foreign Affairs), the Hon Dr Msimu Abdulrahman (Minister for Information, Broadcasting ad Sport for Zanzibar), Mr Gilman Rutihinda (Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance), Mr Joseph Butiku (Private Secretary to The President), His Excellency Ambassador Joshua W Opanga (Chief of Protocol), Miss Joan Wicken (Personal Assistant the The President), His Excellency the Tanzanian High Commissioner and Mrs Nyakyi, the Lord and Lady Trend, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP and Mrs Rifkind, Mr and Mrs William Dodd, Mr and Mrs John Sankey, Mr and Mrs Donald Holland, Mr Trevor Nunn, Mr and Mrs Reginald Keight, Bishop Trevor Huddleston, DD, Miss Maryann Bowen and Mr and Mrs Anil Ishani.

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP, (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, President of the British Olympic Association, this afternoon attended the National Olympic Committee Meeting at International Students House, Great Portland Street, W1, where Her Royal Highness was received by the Chairman of the Association (Mr Charles Palmer).

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gibbs was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Earl of Drogheda at the Memorial Service for the Lord Trevelyan which was held in St Margaret's, Westminster today.

Mrs John Dugdale has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 19: Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Ruth, Lady Fermoy as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 19: The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Joint Services Expedition to Brabant Island, this afternoon at Kensington Palace received a briefing on the Expedition by Commander Christopher Furse, RN.

His Royal Highness, Duke of Cornwall, received the Lord Warden of the Stannaries (the Lord Franks).

The Princess of Wales this evening attended a reception at Lancaster House given by the Minister of State for Industry in connection with the London Fashion Week.

Mrs George West, Mr Victor Chapman and Lieutenant-Commander Peter Eberle, RN were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 19: The Duke of Gloucester was represented by Sir Denis Hamilton at the Memorial Service for Lord Trevelyan which was held at St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey, at noon today.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 19: The Duchess of Kent, as Patron, today visited the Shrewsbury branch of the Samaritans, the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, and the Derwen Training College for the Disabled at Oswestry, Shropshire.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Mrs Peter Wilmot-Sitwell.

The Princess of Wales has agreed to be patron of Help the Aged.

A memorial service for Lord Harlech will be held today at noon in Westminster Abbey.

Requiem Mass for Mr Seamus Sweetman will be celebrated today at 11.30 at St Etheldreda's, Ely Place.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr A. Rae
and Miss C. Lyttelton
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Rae, of Brook House, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Celia, only daughter of the Hon Adrian and Mrs Lyttelton, of 30 Paultons Square, Chelsea, SW3.

Mr R. R. Marriott
and Miss S. A. C. Whitcombe
The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Marriott, Park View Farm, Headley, Hampshire, and Susie, daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Philip Whitcombe, Green Cross Farm, Churt, Surrey.

Mr S. C. Brown
and Miss C. M. Willett
The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs H. P. Brown, of Pett, Sussex, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs G. J. Willett, of Wilden, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire.

Mr S. D. Cradock
and Miss A. J. Campbell
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs H Cradock, of Evercreech, Somerset, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. F. Campbell, of Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

Mr P. R. Downton
and Miss A. C. Naylor
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. C. Downton, of Sevenoaks, and Alison, youngest daughter of Mr W. D. Naylor, of Eastbourne, and Mrs H. E. Naylor, of Reigate.

Mr M. J. F. Hoff
and Miss T. Pontremoli
The engagement is announced between Matthew James Frank, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. F. Hoff, of Peacehaven, Sussex, and Tina, daughter of the late Mr Joseph Pontremoli and of Mrs Joseph Pontremoli, of Brighton, Sussex.

Mr M. James
And Miss A. J. Henn
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs Keith James, of Broadfield Court, Bodenham, Herefordshire, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Henn, of Rudge Hall, Pattingham, Wolverhampton.

Mr J. Kersey
and Miss S. E. Carney
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs John Kersey, of 12 Coombe Rise, Shenfield, Essex, and Sharon Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Carney, of 20 Ravensdale, Kingswood, Basildon, Essex.

Mr I. Tinsley, RA
and Miss V. A. Sharp
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs B. Tinsley, of Farnborough, Hampshire, and Victoria, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs D. Sharp, of Folkestone, Kent.

Mr M. J. W. Winterton
and Miss O. Hughes-Onslow
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Commander David Winterton, RN, and Mrs Winterton, of Vale House, Halstock, Yeovil, and Olivia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Fergus Hughes-Onslow, of Lower Norsebury, Stoke Charity, Winchester.

Birthdays today

The Very Rev William Baddeley, 71; Mr Anthony Blond, 57; Sir Arnold Burgen, 63; Sir Richard Denby, 70; Sir Arthur Driver, 85; Dame Vera Lynn, 68; Mr A. M. M'Bow, 64; Sir Alexander Merrison, 61; Professor Sir Ashley Miles, 81; Sir David Montgomery, 54; Dr J. M. Rae, 54; Sir Michael Redgrave, 77; Mr Justice Saville, 49; Lord Strathclyde, 94; Mr Steven Watson 69.

Latest wills

£280,581 residue for charities

Miss Mary Brearley, of Old Colwyn, Clwyd, left estate valued at £313,081 net. After bequests totalling £32,500 she left the residue equally between the Church Army, the Salvation Army, the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and the Cheshire Foundation.

Luncheons

Royal College of Surgeons of England
Professor Sir Geoffrey Slaney, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, yesterday entertained at luncheon at the college Mr B. E. S. Collins, Mr W. N. Hunter Smart and Miss P. A. George.

Scientific Instrument Makers' Company
The Scientific Instrument Makers' Company held its Spring ladies' luncheon yesterday at Apothecaries' Hall. The guests were received by the Master, Mr John Savage, and the Wardens, Mr George Zahler and Mr Ronald Howard. Before luncheon Dr Douglas Whittet, of the Society of Apothecaries, spoke about the Chelsea Physic Garden.

Pathclub Limited
The directors of Pathclub Limited, were hosts at a luncheon given yesterday at the Berkeley Hotel. The guests were:
Rabbi Dr Louis Jacobs, Rabbi Dr Hugo Gryn, The Rev Simon Hass, Mr Raphael Djanogly, Mr Oliver Sebag-Montefiore, and Mr Gerald [illegible].

HM Government
Baroness Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon given at Lancaster House in honour of the High Commissioner of the Bahamas.

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Dr Rif'At Al Mahgoub, President of the People's Assembly of Egypt, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given yesterday at which Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP, Chairman of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was the host. Other guests were:
Dr Mohammed Abdellah, Mr Sharif Bhatagi, Mr David Crouch, MP, Mr Dennis Canavan, MP and Mr Roy Hughes, MP.

Reception

British-Yugoslav Society
The British-Yugoslav Society were hosts at a farewell reception given yesterday evening for the Yugoslav Ambassador and Mme Stamenković at The Brewery, Chiswell Street. The guests were received by Sir Fitzroy Maclean, president of the society.

Dinners

Speaker
The Speaker and Mrs Weatherill gave a dinner yesterday in Speaker's House in honour of the President of the People's Assembly of Egypt and Mrs al Mahgoub. The Ambassador of Egypt and Mrs Sharara, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly and Mrs Abdellah, and Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Mrs Luce were present. Other guests were:
Sir Ernest Armstrong, MP, and Mrs Armstrong, Mr Enoch Powell, MP and Mrs Powell, Mr David Crouch, MP, and Mrs Crouch, Mr Allan Faulds, MP, and Mrs Faulds, Mr Royston Hughes, MP, and Mrs Hughes, the Hon Greville Janner, QC, MP and Mrs Janner, Mr Edward Leigh, MP, and Mrs Leigh, Mr Robert Parry, MP, and Mrs Parry, Mr Dennis Walters, MP, and Mrs Walters, Mr Timothy Yeo, MP, and Mrs Yeo, Mr David Young, MP, and Mrs Young, Mr Sharif Khafagi, Colonel Mahmud Nasser, Canon and Mrs Trevor Beeson, Miss Christine MacLean, Mr Roger Nicholson and Mr and Mrs William Beaumont.

Mr J. Dormand, MP
Mr J. Dormand, MP, entertained at dinner in the House of Commons last night in connection with St Peter's College, Oxford jubilee appeal. Those present were:
The Master of St Peter's College, Dr Gerald Aylmer, Sir Alec Cairncross, Professor Gustave Born, Mr Peter Marsh, Mr D S Ashton, Mr Keith Barrow, Mrs Beryl Chitty, Mr E J M Cox, Mr J M and J Harris, Mr R G Horlyson, Mr J E Jarvis, Mr J R Knight, Mr Robert Morgan, Mr R B Smith, Mr Peter [illegible] and Mr Stephen Wilcock.

British College of Ophthalmic Opticians
Mr George Miller, president of the British College of Ophthalmic Opticians (Optometrists) presided at a dinner held last night at the City Hall, Cardiff. The guests included the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Mr M. Roper-Hall, Mr H. T. Crippin, Councillor R. E. Watkiss and Mr J. B. D. Creighton Lewis.

Church news

Appointments
Church in Wales
Canon David Williams is to be director of mission, the senior executive officer of the new Board of Mission, which replaces the provincial councils of the Church in Wales.
The Rev J H Jones to be the first incumbent of the new parish of St James, Swansea, diocese of Swansea and Brecon.

Westminster Cathedral Choir School

Choral scholarships have been awarded to the following:
Jonathan Beatty, The Barn School, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire; Oliver Burrows, St Alban's RC Primary School, Cambridge; Robin Schmidt, St Joseph's RC First School, Oxford; Christopher Temmink, Holy Trinity Primary School, Northwood, Middlesex; Timothy Wells, St Thomas's RC Primary School, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Five of the 10 finalists in the Young Cathedral Singer of the Year competition warming up yesterday at St Sepulchre-without-Newgate, London. The winner was Jeremy Unwin, of Westminster Cathedral. Our photograph shows (from left): Richard Townhill, Bobby Sastry, Jeremy Parker, Andrew Gardner, and Daniel Browning. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Memorial services

Lord Trevelyan
The Queen was represented by the Earl of Drogheda at a memorial service for Lord Trevelyan held yesterday at St Margaret's, Westminster. The Duke of Gloucester was represented by Sir Denis Hamilton. Canon Trevor Beeson officiated, assisted by the Rev Ian Robson. Sir Terence Garvey read the lesson and Mr Raleigh Trevelyan read from John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. Sir Anthony Nutting gave an address. Lord Home of the Hirsel and Mr Edward Heath, MP, attended. Others present included:

Lady Trevelyan (widow), the Hon Catherine Trevelyan (daughter), Mr Jan Birse (grandson), Mr and Mrs Paul Duffrard, Mr Jonathan Durrant, Mr John Trevelyan, Mr and Mrs Julian Trevelyan, Sir George Trevelyan, Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Trevelyan, Sir Tony and Lady Weaver, Mr and Mrs Anthony Daniel, James Daniel, Mrs John Moorman, Mr Richard Bartholomew, Dr Clare Whitehead, Mrs Susan Swe, Mr Jonathan Trevelyan, Mr Peter Trevelyan, Mr Raoul Bollin, Miss Julia Trevelyan Oman, Mr Michael Dower, Mr Robin Dower, Mr Simon Bélor, Mr and Mrs John Bartholomew, Mr and Mrs Simon Trevelyan.

Mr Iouri Pavlov (representing the Soviet Ambassador), Mr Chen Zhiying (representing the Chinese Ambassador), the Duchess of Grafton, the Duke and Duchess of Portland, Mary Duchess of Roxburghe, Rosemary Marchioness Camden, the Countess of Perth, Earl Jellicoe, Earl and Countess St Aldwyn, the Earl of Lauderdale, Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard, Viscount Buckmaster, Viscount Norwich, Lord and Lady Bramelow, Lord Inchyra, Lord Greenhill of Harrow, Lord and Lady Gladwyn, Lady Carrington, Lord Rhodes, Lord Sharleston, Lord Drumalbyn, Lord and Lady Poole, Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Opposition Chief Whip, House of Lords), Lord Aldington, Lord McFadzean, Lord Fletcher, Lady Gordon-Walker, Lady Gore Booth, Lord Glendevon, Lady Lever of Manchester, Lord Nelson, Lord and Lady Wolverton, Lord Stewart of Fulham, Lord Soames, CH, and Lady Soames, Lord Holderness, Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, QC, Baroness Birk.

Mrs Launcelot Fleming, Lady Nutting, Sir Ian Gilmour, MP, and Lady Caroline Gilmour, Sir Michael Palliser, Lady Alexandra Metcalfe, Lady Doreen Prior-Palmer, Lady Susan Hussey, the Hon Lady de Zulueta, the Hon Sir Con O'Neill, the Hon Mrs Phillips (British Museum Society) with Mr G R Collis, the Hon Diana Makgill, the Hon Lady Wakefield, the Hon Mark Bonham-Carter, Sir Richard and Lady Thompson, Lady (Thomas) Butler, the Dowager Lady Wakefield, Lady of Aysgarth-Gomond, Sir Marlyn Beckett, Sir Fitzroy and the Hon Lady Maclean, Sir Edwin Arrowsmith (representing the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), Sir David Wilson (director, British Museum) and Lady Wilson with Miss Jean Rankine (deputy director), Sir Peter Wilkinson, Sir Ian Scott (Indian Civil Service), Sir Edward and the Hon Lady Ford, Sir Alan Campbell, Lady Mallowan, Sir Alan Cottrell (Master of Jesus College, Cambridge).

Sir Charles Johnston, Sir William Keswick, Lady (Denis) Hamilton, Sir Roderick Barclay, Sir John and Lady Page, Sir Willis and Lady Combs, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, Sir Patrick Reilly, Sir Duncan Oppenheim, Sir Denys and Lady Laskey, Sir Kenneth Bond, Lady Laidlaw, Lady Wallinger, Sir Moore Crosthwaite, Sir Gilbert Longden, Lady (Donald) Logan, Sir George Middleton, Sir Eric and Lady Drake, Sir Robin Vanderfelt (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association), Sir Brian Warren, Sir Edward Playfair, Sir Donald Maitland, Lady Drew, Lady (Andrew) Humphrey, Sir John and Lady Prendergast, Sir John Cotton (Indian Political Service Association), Lady Bowker, Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis and Lady Bennett, Lady (John) Russell, Sir Howard Smith, Sir John and Lady Pilcher, Sir Stewart Crawford.

Lady (John) Balfour, Sir Robin and Lady Hooper, Lady Garvey, Sir John Wilton (London House) and Lady Wilton, Lady Le Gallais, Sir Paul and Lady Wright, Sir Geoffrey and Lady Harrison, Lady (Edgar) Bonham Carter, Sir George Abell, Sir Denis Wright, Lady Lochnis, Sir Richard Powell, Lady (Charles) Villiers, Sir John Moreton (Order of St Michael and St George), Sir Michael Stewart, Sir Archibald Ross, Lady (John) Barnes, Sir Andrew Stark, Sir Douglas and Lady Dodds-Parker, Sir Roger Jackling, Lady (William) Oliver, Lady (Dugald) Stewart, Sir Jeffrey Sterling, Sir Patrick and Lady Dean, Sir Francis and Lady Sandilands, Mr Frank and Lady Kathleen Giles, Colonel J W and Lady Joan Gore-Langton, Sir and the Hon Mrs George Marten, Mr R Q Braithwaite (representing the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Head of the Diplomatic Service) and Mrs Braithwaite, Mr and Mrs R W Ford, Judge Beaumont, Mrs Mark Walker, Mrs Peter Cazalet, Mr Roger Bexon (British Petroleum).

Mr and Mrs R H Ollerson, Mr Peter Holmes, Mr and Mrs Bryan Calledge, Miss Mary Penn (director, Sino-British Trade Council), Mr Michael Verey, Mrs Philip Tower, Miss Penny Brooke (director, Great Britain-China Centre), Dr J E S Edwards, Sir Neil MacGregor (editor, The Burlington Magazine), Mr Graham C Greene, Mr and Mrs S L Egerton, Mr H D F Creighton, Miss Joan Bernard, Mr Michael Tait, Mrs D M Latte (principal, Trevelyan College, Durham University), Mr Martin Moynihan, Miss Jean Shaw, Air Vice Marshal and Mrs M D Lyne, Dr O O'Neill, Mrs Simon Hornby, Professor Edward Hall, Mr John Lewis, Mr Tom Sewell, Dr and Mrs E Fothergill, Mr Kenneth Snowman, Mr Dennis Walters, MP, Mr St John Armitage, Mr Simon Peter Palmer, Mr Michael Wheeler-Booth (Reading Clerk, House of Lords).

Mr A Filson, Mr H V Hodson, Prince Michael Sapieha, Baron and Baroness Bosshe, Prince and Princess George Galitzine, Mme Gertrude Wesin, Baron de Gerlache de Gomery, Princess Christine Sapieha, Mr D Anderson Evans (International Students House), Mr Peter Mason (British Bank of the Middle East), Mr Ian Macpherson (chairman, Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company), Mr R G Townley (chairman, Lansing Club, also representing the president), Mr Ian Sutherland (Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) and Mrs L Grimbar.

Mr P. Fleetwood-Hesketh
A memorial service for Mr Peter Fleetwood-Hesketh was held yesterday at St Giles-in-the-Fields. The Rev Gordon Taylor officiated, assisted by the Rev David Scott and the Rev Noel Michell, who also represented the Diocese of Liverpool and the Diocesan Advisory Committee. The lesson was read by Colonel Roger Hesketh (brother) and an address was given by Mr Mark Girouard. Among those present were:

Miss Everilda Hesketh (daughter), Miss Esther Hesketh (granddaughter), Mrs Brian Fitzgerald (sister), Felicia Lady Clitheroe (sister-in-law), Mr Robert Hesketh, Mr and Mrs Anthony Blond, Brigadier Dennis FitzGerald, Sir Marcus and the Hon Lady Worsley, Sir Aubrey Brocklebank, Pamela Lady Brocklebank, the Hon Mrs Nicholas Assheton, Mr Giles Worsley, Sir Charles Brocklebank, Mrs D Brocklebank, Mrs C G Brocklebank, Mr and Mrs David Yorke.

The Duke and Duchess of Richmond, Anne, Countess of Rosse, Viscountess Ashbrook, Viscount and Viscountess Esher, Lord Grimthorpe, Lord and Lady Hesketh, Lady Saltrey, the Dowager Lady Hesketh, Lord Sherborne, the Hon John Bingham, the Hon Lady Perowne, the Hon Mrs Chancellor, the Hon Joan Arton, the Hon Thomas Ponsonby, Sir Ralph Anstruther, Major General Sir Jeremy and Lady Moore, Sir John Summerson, Lady Harrod, Sir Brinsley Ford (representing the Society of Dilettanti).

Mr St John Gore (representing the National Trust) and Lady Mary Gore, Prince John Sapieha, Princess Sapieha, Prince and Princess Alexandra Croy, Countess Jankovich, Mr A N Gibbs, Mr C W Wentworth Stanley, Mr Owen Wentworth Stanley, Mr David Wentworth Stanley, Mr and Mrs R R Assheton, Mr W F Assheton, Mr Anthony Kimmins (deputy chairman, Prayer Book Society), Mr and Mrs R B Hope Hall, Mrs Mark Girouard.

Mr Peter Gifford, Lieutenant-Colonel N H Phillips (representing the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry), Mrs J Freeman (Victorian Society), Mr and Mrs William Bell, Mr Dennis Flanders, Mr Henry M N Noel (Incorporated Church Building Society), Mr C Grandage (Association of Lancastrians in London), Miss Margot Eates (Advisory Board for Redundant Churches), Mr John Martin Robinson, Mr Jack Gold, Mr Peter Moores, Mr Randolph Vigne (Huguenot Society of London), Mr Harold Sorel and Mr H T Cadbury-Brown (Covent Garden Conservation Area Advisory Committee).

University news

Oxford
Professor Edwin M. Southern, FRS, director of the MRC mammalian genome unit, Edinburgh University, has been appointed to the Whitley professorship of biochemistry from October 1, in succession to the Nobel prize winner, Professor Rodney Porter, FRS, who will be retiring in September.

The Rev Dr A. L. Pettersen, Clare College, Cambridge, has been elected to the chaplaincy and a fellowship of Exeter College from April 25.

Edinburgh
Grants and contracts for the academic session 1984-85 total £7,062,790. Latest grants include:

Medical Research Council: £82,137, to Dr J Beggs and Dr R P Ambler in support of research on the [illegible] analysis of genes involved in nuclear mRNA splicing in Saccharomyces cerevisiae; £58,711, to Dr S E M Howie and Dr M Norval in support of research on the immunopathology of persistent viral infections in the skin, the role of antigen presenting cells in local immunity.

Science and Engineering Research Council: £136,298, to Dr J A M Howe and Mr R Rae in support of research on a high performance proling system for RGS multi-user machine; £89,850, to Dr L Sawyer, Dr J A Bridgewell and Professor A Miller in support of research on the application of molecular graphics to globular proteins, enzyme studies and nucleic acids; £63,294, to Dr R W Flynn, Dr H M Reekie and Professor J Mavor in support of research on novel frequency selective filters [illegible]; £62,910, to Professor J A McGeough and Dr G M Alder in support of research on the selection for machining [illegible]; £[illegible], to Dr A Blake in support of research on surface reconstruction in 3D vision; £[illegible], to Professor R M Burstall and Mr R J R G Milner in support of research on the development of the functional language ML.

Cancer Research Campaign: £57,868, to Dr L J Kinlen in support of the cancer epidemiology unit.

Wellcome Trust: £85,266, to Dr J S [illegible] in support of research on the [illegible] of antigenic polymorphism in human malaria.

[illegible] Charitable Foundation: £63,682, to Dr C J Leaver in support of research on the [illegible] of nuclear and mitochondrial genomes during mitochondrial [illegible] in higher plants.

[illegible] Cancer Research Fund: £80,000 to [illegible] Anderson in support of a [illegible] project on the contraceptive pill.

Agricultural and food research council: £[illegible], to Dr A J Leigh Brown in support of research on a molecular genetic analysis of [illegible] in Drosophila; £447,500, to [illegible] and Dr W B Martin [illegible]; £78,563, to Dr C J Leaver in support of [illegible] and phenotypic variation in [illegible].

Arthritis and Rheumatism Council: £61,140, to Professor A Iggo in support of research on neurophysiological and pharmacological study of joint receptors in normal and arthritic rats.

Durham
Mr John L. J. Machin has been appointed director of the Durham University Business School.

Professor Charles Baker, who developed the school from a small research unit, is to cut his administrative load and spend more time on research and teaching.

The title of emeritus professor has been conferred on Professor F. C. Spooner, professor of economic history, from October 1.

Appointments
Lecturer: [illegible], M.Eng. (electronics) from Mr S D J Murphy, BSc, DPhil, (botany) from July 1.

Grants
Science and Engineering Research Council: £100,000 to Professor R D Chambers, Professor K Wade, in association with Professor B T Golding, Newcastle University, for medium multinuclear [illegible], to Dr J R Bumby, Dr P H Clarke, Dr V C Endean, for a test facility for electric hybrid vehicles. National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases: £51,804 to Professor D F Barker to study factors affecting the sensory reinnervation and recovery of muscle stretch receptors after nerve section and suture.

Glasgow
Dr Stuart Cobbe has been elected to the Walton chair of cardiology.

Birmingham
The following honorary degrees are to be conferred in July:

DLitt: Max Frisch, writer; Professor Derek Brewer, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge University.

LLD: Sir Stephen Brown, Lord Justice of Appeal.

DD: The Rev Philip Potter, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

DMus: Dr Percy Young, former director of music, Wolverhampton College of Technology.

DSc: Professor Walter Heyman, professor of pure mathematics, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; Mr James Morris, chairman and managing director of Brown and Root (UK); Professor James Dooge, until recently professor of civil engineering at University College, Dublin; Professor Paul Astrup, professor of clinical chemistry, University of Copenhagen.

Nottingham
Mr W. Angus Wallace, senior lecturer in orthopaedic surgery at Manchester University, has been appointed to the chair of orthopaedic and accident surgery at Nottingham from September. He will succeed Professor William Waugh, who retired last autumn.

OBITUARY

MR ROGER SESSIONS

Eminent American composer

Roger Sessions, who died in Princeton, New Jersey at the age of 88 on March 16 had been one of the leading figures in American music during the last half-century. As a composer he contributed some significant works to the repertory, not least eight symphonies; as a writer, he was influential both as a theorist and for his concern with the areas in which politics and the arts come into contact. Perhaps above all, he was held in the warmest regard as a teacher.

At the centre of Sessions's whole musical attitude, was a concern for craftmanship which he saw as vital if a healthy individuality was to develop in American music.

His own studies began at the age of 14, at Harvard. He studied further at Yale, and had some lessons with Ernest Bloch, before taking up a series of travelling scholarships in Europe. These included a spell in Florence before he was lured to Berlin by his friend, Otto Klemperer.

Between 1928 and 1931 Sessions and Aaron Copland presented an important series of contemporary music concerts in New York. He finally settled in America again in 1935.

After a depressing period both personally and professionally, he took up a position at Princeton. He then held professorships at Berkeley (1944-52 and 1966-7); Princeton (1953-65); and again at Harvard (1968-9). His international honours included awards and degrees from Berlin and Buenos Aires, as well as many, including a Pulitzer Prize (1974), from the USA.

Though his music has a more European cast than that of his close friend and associate Aaron Copland, Sessions was always more highly regarded as a composer in his own country than abroad. He himself claimed to have "a security in American society" that ran deeper than the obvious use of the homespun.

The early influence of Stravinsky was absorbed into a style that also took account of the work of Schoenberg. If there was in his music a somewhat severe outward manner, this was the product of a searching musical intellect that could master complex stylistic problems, and give them an intelligent creative form. Closer acquaintance with his music would usually reveal a rewarding experience; and his fellow-composers had the greatest admiration for his ability to organise his ideas in large-scale structures.

His Violin Concerto of 1935 exemplifies these qualities as does his later String Quintet of 1958.

Sessions's leading characteristic was perhaps sturdiness. Physically solid – he liked to compare himself to a tree of his native New England – he had also great charm.

Intellectually robust, he had a knack of drawing the highest standards from his students without intimidating them; he was famous for encouraging them "to stick their necks out." "If there are no dissenting voices," he once said, "then that's a sure sign that nobody's gotten very much out of it."

He was patient about the slowness of his own recognition as a major figure, patient with his students, impatient only with sloppiness and haste.

PROF C. A. SIEPMANN

Professor C. A. Siepmann, MC, the educationist and authority on broadcasting, has died in London at the age of 85.

He was Professor of Education at New York University from 1946 to 1967 but had established a reputation in this country before he went to America at the begining of the Second World War.

Born on March 10, 1899, the son of Otto Siepmann, he was educated at Clifton College, and at Keble College, Oxford. He enlisted in 1917, and was awarded the MC.

After a few years in industry, he became interested in social welfare work, and seized the first opportunity of exercising his educational qualifications, and at the same time satisfying his desire to take part in reformative activities.

Appointed housemaster and education officer of Feltham and Rochester Borstal institutions, in 1924, he made an intensive study of juvenile delinquency, his constant contact with offenders ensuring the accuracy of his observations and conclusions.

Three years later he joined the BBC, as director of talks, the value of his services being recognized in the next twelve years by successive appointments to take charge of regional relations and programme planning. He was largely responsible for the development of the national scheme that made broadcasting as effective and popular in provincial areas as in those for which the headquarters' organization catered especially.

In 1939 he went to America to take up a post as lecturer at Harvard University. In 1942 he was appointed consultant at the Office of War Information, where he remained till 1945, when he took over the deputy directorship of its San Francisco office.

At the end of the war he accepted a professorship at New York University, specializing as an educationist, but resumed his researches into many aspects of broadcasting. A writer of rare lucidity of style, and scholarly and scientific habits, he was the author of several books dealing with the implications of the universal use of wireless by governments, and, in America, commercial undertakings and later wrote extensively on television.

His conclusion in a report, issued in 1953, after an exhaustive investigation of the effects of television on children, that it was not an unmixed blessing, but "a two-edged sword," created widespread interest, and not a little controversy.

He was Professor at Sarah Lawrence College, New York, 1968-71.

He married, in 1940, Charlotte Tyler, and there were one son and two daughters of the marriage.

MR JEFFREY DELL

Roy Boulting writes:

Jeffrey Dell – novelist, dramatist, film writer and director – died recently, aged 86. Born in 1899 the son of a solicitor, he was educated at Berkhamsted School, Herts, where a fellow pupil was Graham Greene.

His academic career was interrupted by World War One. Fudging his age, he enlisted in the army by way of the Regiment of the Inns of Court. But when the Flying Corps came into existence, he immediately volunteered for service as a pilot.

Postwar, having spent a brief period as a student at the Brighton College of Art (seemingly, to little effect), he was persuaded to enter his father's law firm as an articled clerk. He found the work uncongenial. Nevertheless he became a solicitor. Much of the work involved prosecution in police litigation and this, for someone innately sympathetic to the underdog, he found increasingly distasteful.

It was during this unhappy time that he turned to writing for solace and satisfaction. When three pieces were accepted for publication by Punch, he knew that he had discovered his true vocation. But it was not until 1932, with his dramatisation of Payment Deferred, (which provided the late Charles Laughton with one of his earliest theatrical triumphs) that he could afford to abandon the law.

Two further plays, both filmed by Hollywood, as was Payment Deferred, brought Dell to the attention of Alexander Korda, the legendary impresario, who in the Thirties was seeking to establish British films on the screens of the world. Korda gave him a writing contract.

In 1937, finance brought Korda's ambitions to an abrupt halt. But out of the years Dell had spent with London Films there emerged his first novel, Nobody Ordered Wolves, a classic piece of comedy writing about film making. Satirical, sardonic, witty and hilarious, it had instant success with critics and public alike.

In 1943 Dell made his debut as a film director with A Flemish Farm. This was followed by Don't Take It To Heart, a widely praised comedy and perhaps his best directorial effort.

The advent of the Fifties brought yet another financial crisis for British films. Dell returned to novel writing. "It was a fine day in Heaven, with a strong smell of paraffin", was the opening sentence of News For Heaven. It established the mood of a comedy fantasy inspired by a quotation from Byron: "And if I laugh at any mortal thing, 'Tis that I may not weep". It was well received, but only moderately successful. Similarly, a third novel, The Hoffman Episode.

In 1957 he was invited to collaborate on the screenplay of Brothers in Law, the second of the Boulting Brothers cycle of comedy films. It was the start of an association that was to extend into the Seventies.

He leaves a widow, Barbara, two daughters, and a son of his first marriage.

Science report

Interferon tested to combat Aids

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

After successful laboratory tests a medical team in the United States suggested that clinical trials with the drug interferon should begin for treating early stages of infection by the Aids virus.

The recommendation is made in The Lancet by a group working with Mr David Ho, of the infectious diseases unit at the Massachusetts Hospital, Boston.

Their proposal comes from studies showing that the growth of the HTLV-III strain of the virus could be halted by the alpha type of interferon, which is now available in commercial quantities for a programme of treatment. Interferon is an antiviral substance produced naturally by the body's defence system to combat infections.

Preparation of the drug by extraction from donated blood serum is prohibitively expensive. Large quantities can now be manufactured by transferring from a human cell to a micro-organism the gene that controls the secretion of the interferon in the body.

Without a source of genetically engineered interferon, the idea of using it as a regular treatment would have been impracticable. Interferon extracted from serum would cost about £20,000 for each course of treatment, and if used widely would consume most of the donated blood serum.

Clinical trials of interferon for treatment of Aids are already in progress at many centres, but the authors point out that those trials are generally on late disease, where significant antiviral effects may be difficult to demonstrate.

Laboratory work of that kind is studied with particular interest in Britain by scientists at the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL), which in the past six months has tested more than 6,000 specimens from patients with suspected Aids and Aids-related disease for antibody to the virus.

The CPHL, based at Colindale, north London, works in close collaboration with the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre near by and with Department of Health medical officers and research workers in London medical schools to co-ordinate the national effort to deal with the growing Aids threat.

The centre uses clinical reports from hospitals and sexually transmitted disease clinics, together with laboratory reports from the health service and the Public Health Laboratory Service. Each week it receives weekly reports on opportunistic infections from medical microbiologists, who also indicate cases in which there is no apparent cause of the underlying immuno-suppression; and cases of positive tests for HTLV-III antibody.

Clinicians are asked to report to the centre in confidence any case of Aids or suspected Aids that comes to their notice. The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys reports weekly all deaths attributed to Aids or Kaposi's sarcoma. Accidental exposure to the infection among health care staff is also reported, and an agreed confidential follow-up is arranged.

As well as monitoring the spread of Aids virus, the CPHL is preparing to confirm the results of antibody tests when commercial kits become available in other laboratories in the next few months.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr Michael Dower, director of the Dartington Institute in Devon, to be national park officer for the Peak District.

Sir Patrick Meaney to be a member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board. He succeeds the late Sir William Duncan as deputy chairman.

Mr A. K. Quilter, Headmaster of Wells Cathedral School, to succeed Mrs Angela Dancy as Regional Director of Independent Schools Information Service (South and West) from March 1986.

Mr Nigel Johnson, to be Master of Brandeston Hall, the Junior School of Framlingham College, from September 1.

THE ARTS

Opera

Scarcely a glorious scandal

Act II: the Golden Calf and Christ crucified

Faust
Vienna State

Few operagoing communities greet scandals with more relish than the Viennese, but since Lorin Maazel's undignified exit as Director of the Staatsoper last year these have been quiet times in the Austrian capital.

A few weeks ago – some would put the date more precisely as St Valentine's Day – Austrian television treated viewers to an interview with a white-tied gentleman who solemnly promised that the artistic establishment would soon enjoy "the most glorious scandal in its history". The man, who refused to speak German, was Ken Russell, about to make his début at the Staatsoper with a new production of Gounod's *Faust*.

After that, barely a day passed without the whiff of intrigue familiar to regular followers of the Vienna opera scene. What would the man who had written the destruction of Nagasaki by nuclear bomb into the climax of *Madama Butterfly* have in store for this most conservative of houses? Was Faust to be portrayed as Frankenstein, as suggested by one Viennese paper, or would the producer, sensitive to Austria's imminent celebration of the end of the Third Reich, turn Valentin's army into the S.S. stormtroopers who had once poured on to the stage during his production of *La Bohème*?

Giorgio Zaccanagro's unexpected replacement as Valentin by Walton Groenroos two days before the premiere sustained the suspense. When the conductor, Alain Lombard, 24 hours later also became suddenly "indisposed", most of the ingredients for a debacle seemed to be at boiling point. In the event, those who arrived at the weekend looking forward to something outrageously shocking were disappointed, as were less complicated souls who had merely hoped to enjoy an opera rarely performed in the Vienna house.

Russell places the work in the time of the Napoleonic wars rather than the sixteenth century. Carl Toms's sets create an atmosphere faintly suggestive of Gothic horror. Perhaps we are in France; a guillotine does dispatch Marguerite at the end of the opera, but Valentin and his men are dressed in the scarlet of Wellington's army and a building uncannily like Salisbury Cathedral sits on the misty horizon. Pointed arches and middle-pointed tracery are never far from the action.

And what action there is. During the first act's village festival, gigantic artillery pieces roll on to the stage. A 15-foot high calf's head, with eyes rotating like a fruit machine, spews gold coins into the orchestra pit. When Faust sings of his longing for Marguerite in the second act, an equally vast head appears, while her seduction at the end of the act is accompanied by another giant image, this time a white skull with glowing red horns.

The ageing Faust effects a brilliant metamorphosis into a young Biedermeier playboy in the first scene. But Mephistopheles's rather more eccentric transition into a vampire-bat in Act II requires all of Ruggero Raimondi's strength to appear calm, let alone evil, while he stands poised on a 12-foot high triforium and slowly extends a pair of rather heavy six-foot wings.

With all this happening, Francisco Araiza's Faust can perhaps be forgiven for appearing rather distracted. His voice is well controlled but was limited in its expressive range. Raimondi, despite the complicated logistics involved, clearly enjoyed wearing a large shaving brush in his hat and feasting himself on chocolate and liquorice crucifixes.

It was Marguerite, here sung by Gabriella Benačková, whose performance was the most memorable of the evening. Although forced to take holy orders and join a rather giggly convent in this production, she remained dignified, with her voice in top form. If the gentry in their boxes were entertained, the standing audience of the Staatsoper expressed the feelings of Gounod's admirers everywhere in their chorus of cat-calls and whistles.

Richard Bassett

Television

Cultural despair

Last night's episode of **The Day the Universe Changed** (BBC 1) was the first of a series and, as such, was no doubt meant to sound an intellectual clarion call; it was unfortunate, then, that the actual noise was more that of a damp squib. James Burke tried hard to strike a challenging note, but his apparently robust commentary could not be said to add very much to the sum of human knowledge.

This was one of Mr Burke's more memorable remarks: "Up to the fifteenth century we memorized our knowledge in song and poetry, then we invented a way to do without memory and as a result ushered in today's standardized technological existence". This begs so many questions that it ought to enter a Salvation Army hostel.

And the astonishing crudity of the language employed, with all its crass assumptions and its credulous generalizations, would be embarrassing from an O level candidate: surely it is insulting for an audience to be spoken "down to" in this egregious manner?

If the rest of the series is couched in a similar style, it will bear as much relation to intellectual or cultural history as comic-book versions of the classics do to the classics themselves. Certainly it has an opposite effect to the one intended, since Mr Burke's robust optimism seems quite out of place in a programme which makes one despair of the culture which could have produced it.

But, in justice, Mr Burke should perhaps be awarded some kind of prize for investing bathos with so much animation: he was very enthusiastic and often even over-excited; although it became increasingly difficult to know exactly what he was growing excited about.

Fumbling around among the centuries like a bingo caller, he announced each inaccurate fact ("the idea of progress is nineteenth-century") and each absurd generalization ("our rationalistic beginnings back in Ancient Greece") with the same horrid glee. "You see what your knowledge tells you to see", he explained at the beginning; my knowledge, limited though it is, told me not to look.

Peter Ackroyd

Concerts

Endymion/Whitfield
Purcell Room

Nothing if not immediate, Nigel Osborne's new song cycle *Pornography* bangs into music four poems from Craig Raine's recent book *Rich*. It is an enthusiastic coupling with a quartet of colour-shocked innuendos, though not with the poem that gives the cycle its title – which surely in this medium ought to be "pornophony" anyway.

Singing makes things different in other respects too. Osborne's music does not slouch, but Raine's tempo is quicker: the images ought to be snapping into place in no time at all. There is the usual problem, too, of a poetic first-person voice being assumed by a singer, even one as accomplised as Linda Hirst and as suitably dressed for the part in sun-yellow pyjamas.

The page is cool, flat and white: the singing voice can scarcely avoid, when the musical imagery is so rich itself, adding lashings of personal feeling. On a more mechanical level, there are awkward misunderstandings latent in words like "plaice" and "missed".

Granted all that, the piece is a neat *jeu d'esprit*. Osborne has not been shy of taking a single poetic idea to colour a whole song, as when the Spanish stanza of "Code Napoleon" is the excuse for flamenco guitar and castanets all through, and he answers the Creole of "Gaugin" unashamedly.

Miss Hirst gave a vital first performance, in a concert that usefully revived excellent pieces by Simon Bainbridge, Vic Hoyland, Oliver Knussen and Dominic Muldowney. The fine instrumentalists of the Endymion Ensemble needed only some slightly more awake conducting in order to make the most of so much strange and exciting music.

Paul Griffiths

GCU/Wright
Festival Hall

Verdi's Requiem has to be pretty badly performed for it to give the listener any rest at all. The clashing polarities of which it makes such deeply human music demand comparable extremes of virtuoso performance, yet can respond to far less. Even with apprentice players, the paradoxes that propel its drama never fail to grip the listener by the throat – the chemistry of Verdi's individual voice-writing within its corporate mass, for instance, and the lacerating juxtapositions of terror and reassurance.

So it was on Monday night, when work and performers revealed each other in their true light. Brian Wright drew every last drop of adrenalin from the dilegently schooled Goldsmiths Choral Union and Guildford Philharmonic Choir. He showed, too, plenty of signs that, given the chance, he knew just where the work should be going and when.

The factor which inhibited him and, ironically, reinforced the resilience and stature of the work, was the sizeable gap between intention and execution on the part of orchestra and soloists.

The Guildford Philharmonic's history reveals no lack of practice in accompanying. But on this occasion the section playing, unstable enough when standing alone, merely cold-shouldered the voices. Understandable, perhaps, if not condonable, in the case of Jo Ann Pickens and Stuart Kale, both quite embarrassingly ill-cast.

Donnie Ray Albert's reliable bass-baritone provided a clear outline in ensemble, and, from time to time, character as well as control. Not only by almost ludicrous contrast, but very much in its own right, Jean Rigby's contribution elevated the entire performance. Her true, deep-seated alto gives remarkable resonance and authority to its role in this work; and her "Liber scriptus" as well as a radiant "Lux aeterna", together with Verdi himself, redeemed the evening.

Hilary Finch

Accardo/Canino
St John's/Radio 3

A mainly French programme from Salvatore Accardo and Bruno Canino in their BBC lunchtime concert at St John's, Smith Square, on Monday nevertheless had a considerable element of Italianate fervour. They imparted an almost operatic quality to the youthful A major Sonata by Fauré, written before those of both Brahms and Franck, and here made to sound more emotionally turbulent than theirs.

The impassioned surge and sweep of the opening movement was sustained on a well integrated partnership between the violin and piano, which nevertheless reflected a sense of musical proportion in relation to the content of this and the succeeding movements. Subtler aspects of technique, such as the violinist's dynamic shading on one note, were by no means obscured by the volatile exuberance of mood.

In Debussy's more fanciful G minor Sonata, the elusive central intermezzo movement expressed a vein of moonstruck melancholy to contrast with its neighbours, as if Pierrot had for a time become the obverse of Harlequin and his ebullient fantasy. Again the violinist waxed almost lyrical in melodic feeling, interspersed with hints of dreaminess, before a colourful finale.

It was imaginative to separate these two works by Webern's Four Pieces, Op 7, in which clarity and brevity of utterance had a cleansing effect, even with a sinuous curve of phrase given to the second and fourth of them. Ravel's *Tzigane*, catching glittering fire from a smouldering start, added a finishing flourish to a programme which can be heard again on Radio 3 next Sunday night.

Noël Goodwin

● The seventh annual Susan Smith Blackburn Prize has been awarded to the British playwright Shirley Gee, for her *Never in My Lifetime*. The play, about the attitudes of the British army and the Catholic population of Northern Ireland, has been seen at the Soho Poly, and there are plans for a New York production by Alexander Cohen in 1986. The prize in worth $3,000.

THE TIMES Portfolio

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9	Electronic Mach	
10	GEC	
	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
11	Davy	
12	Br Vita	
13	Burco Dean	
14	Cape Ind	
15	Biddle	
16	Dobson Park	
17	Brown & Tawse	
18	Billam (J)	
19	Br Steam	
20	Cope Allman	
	INDUSTRIALS L-R	
21	Pearson	
22	Reed Int	
23	Marley	
24	Macfarlane	
25	Metalax	
26	RHP	
27	Marshalls Univ	
28	Morgan Crucible	
29	Low & Bonar	
30	LRC	
	INDUSTRIES S-Z	
31	Utd Wire	
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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Two cheers for Budget

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 11. Dealings End, March 22. § Contango Day, March 25. Settlement Day, April 1.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

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ELECTRICALS

FINANCE AND LAND

Financial trusts, page 22

FOODS

HOTELS AND CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A–D

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INSURANCE

Investment trusts, page 22

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Sterling rise bonus for the Chancellor

On Budget day of all days, events in the state of Ohio seemed to be doing more for the Chancellor's financial strategy than all the careful planning and adjustments Nigel Lawson and his advisers had been channelling into the Budget speech. The Chancellor's anxiety to provide a combination of targets and measures that would satisfy financial markets at home and abroad at the same time as he tried to stimulate employment was no doubt vital as a long-term background. There was nothing in the speech to upset foreign exchange markets and, if only in that negative sense, everything to reassure them. But, for the moment at least the task of reassurance has been made much easier.

The dollar continued to fall sharply over Monday night in late New York trading and in the Far East, where it fell below DM 3.3. In London yesterday morning, the pound took over the leading role rising sharply against the dollar and more modestly against the mark. By lunchtime, the sterling index had reached 74.6, the best since pre-crisis December. In London the pound peaked at \$1.1450, but fell back to \$1.1365 with the index at 74.0 as New York decided the dollar had gone too far for an hour or two. Yet it seems clear that the pound had become the main beneficiary of dollar weakness. That is logical, since analysts had been quite prepared to acknowledge sterling was undervalued earlier this year while their dealers continued to sell it with the trend. If the trend has been broken, a switch to sterling is the obvious next move.

The Chancellor included a strong passage to the effect that he acknowledged the foreign exchanges were integral to inflation control and that short-term interest rates would be held at the level needed to maintain these wider anti-inflationary monetary conditions. That was a message to the market that if ever he had been operating a low-interest rate policy, he is not now.

Meanwhile, interbank rates have moved down to 13¼ to 13⅛ per cent, enough, in the present mood, to trigger a one point base rate cut. If sterling continues to benefit from dollar weakness that will happen soon. The Chancellor's message is not to hurry that process.

Few surprises, but nasty ones

The main question in the run-up to the Budget was whether the Chanellor, stung by the sterling crises, would respond by tightening policy. He did not, and the target ranges for monetary growth, 3-7 per cent for narrow money MO and 5-9 per cent for sterling M3, and the £7 billion public sector borrowing requirement target for 1985/6 were lifted straight from last year's Budget.

This then was all much as expected, and those surprises the Chancellor did have were mostly nasty ones. After Monday's announcement of a negative PSBR of £225 million in February, expectations were for a full-year figure of less than £10 billion.

The Chancellor has estimated £10.5 billion as the likely outturn, £3.25 billion above the original target and suggesting that the March PSBR, of £2.9 billion, will be worse than in the previous two years. On public expenditure, Mr Lawson is to be applauded for realism, but adding £2 billion to the reserves, and thus the public spending totals, for each of the next three years does not smack of tight control.

By far the most interesting change from the point of view of monetary control is the proposed change in the Banking Act which will allow companies to provide some easing of the pressure for higher bank lending. It remains to be seen whether a real market in such instruments will develop in any scale. This could be another false dawn like low-coupon bonds. However, pending the exact monetary treatment of these short-term securities, it does look as though the change might eventually make the task of monetary control easier and by removing the Bank of England's need to overfund to overcome excessive bank lending, make the swings of funding feast and famine less acute.

In the coming months, monetary control will be assessed on a qualitive as well as on a quantitive basis. Apparently acceptable numbers for the monetary aggregates and particularly sterling M3, are less than satisfactory if merely achieved by heavy sales of government debt, against a backgroud of strong bank lending and high public sector borrowing.

The gilt-edged market spent the latter part of yesterday afternoon heaving a sigh of relief over certain aspects of the Chancellor's Budget statement, and prepared to return to more traditional preoccupations this morning. In general, the market is expected to open reasonably firm, but few traders expect fireworks, given the £750 million of stock currently overhanging the market.

Analysts noted that various provisions for Capital Gains Tax have been changed but concluded that the bulk of existing legislation governing gilts, like the year and a day rule, appeared still to be in place. Likewise the exemption of United Kingdom corporate bonds from the Chancellor's proscription of coupon-stripping may make it more attractive to issue this kind of debt, but in general analysts failed to blanche at these new provisions.

Greater importance was attached to the spectacle of an apparently chastened Chancellor outlining a series of crucial numbers for the gilts market, like the monetary growth targets – slightly down – and the PSBR figures, which appeared both credible and attainable. As one trader quipped: "At long last, we've got to the back of the front-end loading." Only the forecast of a £10½ billion PSBR for 1984-85 caused some apprehension implying a £3 billion borrowing requirement for March.

On a broader time frame, the Chancellor's reluctance to tax pension funds ought to give a boost to the long end of the gilt edged market, and provoke in turn some switching out of index-linked stocks, the natural haven for long term money, when the pension fund tax was mooted.

Given the official push, too, to open up the market for short-term corporate debt instruments, the market now assures that the Government Broker will try to avoid tapping this segment of the market for funds. Assuming also that he is still reluctant to issue long dated stock, then the bulk of funding may, according to one argument, take place in the 10-15 year range, where yields are already high. On this argument, the hump in the yield curve should rise still further in the 1995 area.

Anticlimax for equity market

While the City will welcome the Chancellor's overriding commitment to maintaining a firm hold on inflation, anticlimax was the overwhelming reaction to the Budget in the equity market. The predicted changes, such as capital gains tax relief, emerged in a more muted form than the market had been expecting. The unexpected measures, most notably extra incentives to employ the unskilled were greeted with considerable scepticism.

The overall effect, measured by the FT-SE 100 index, was to turn a fall on the day of 0.2 into a rise at one stage of just 4.4. But it could not hang on to even this modest cheer, and closed 4.2 up at 1,304.5. That is leaving few hostages to fortune after the buoyant mood displayed by investors in recent weeks. The FT 30-share index was unable to cross the 1,000 level, confining itself to a 2.1 gain at 997.5.

Onshore oil companies were hardest hit. The removal of petroleum revenue tax for onshore exploration came as a blow to this part of the sector, more than offsetting any pleasure that the Chancellor was able to stay his hand from the North Sea.

Stores did best, benefiting both as an employer of cheap labour and a supplier to lower-paid people whose own tax and national insurance contributions have been cut.

But analysts were extremely wary of the national insurance changes. They will obviously hurt companies which have highly-paid workers, such as merchant banks, newspapers and advertsising agencies. But the effect was difficult to gauge accurately. This is the one Budget which equity investors will be inclined to shrug off in terms of its fiscal impact. Lower interest rates and a stronger pound will be of significantly greater moment.

£11.7m operating loss throws BL recovery off course

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

BL's disappointing sales performance in the second half of last year was underlined yesterday when the state-owned car group reported that it had slipped back into loss at the operating and all other levels last year.

The annual results showed the BL group made an operating loss before interest and tax of £11.7 million, compared with the modest operating profit of £4.1 million in 1983.

Under the origninal recovery plan agreed with the Government, the target of Sir Austin Bide, BL's chairman, was to break even in 1983 and move into the black last year.

In its statement yesterday, however, BL said the recent rate of recovery had "not been sustained". The pay strike last autumn at Austin Rover, BL's volume car business, was one important adverse factor, costing BL more than 86,000 cars – worth nearly £500 million – in lost production.

BL also blamed the continuing overcapacity in the European car market, and competitiveness in the market. The group's total vehicle sales fell from 564,000 to 511,000.

The continued market difficulties of Austin Rover are known to be causing concern at the Department of Trade and Industry, which has been studying BL's corporate plan.

Both the department and the company refused to confirm reports that the board had been asked to revise its plan. Approval of which is not expected until after Easter.

BL has said it will waive the last £110 million of government aid under the cash injection plan agreed with the Government by Sir Michael Edwardes BL's former chairman. The group said yesterday that despite its loss last year, its balance sheet remained strong.

BL intends to meet future funding needs from operating cash flow, further privatization measures and private borrowing.

Austin Rover made an operating loss of £26 million against a profit of £3 million in 1983. The cars division as a whole made an operating profit of £40 million (down from £73 million), largely due to the first-half contribution from Jaguar before its £186 million privatization.

Without the proceeds from the Jaguar sale, BL's overall operating loss would have been £64 million. Unipart, the components division – likely to be the next privatization candidate – made an operating profit of £14 million.

BL's troubled truck and bus divisions continued to make losses. Despite a profit from both Land-Rover and Freight Rover, the non-car divisions made an operating loss of £49 million, compared with the previous year's loss of £66 million.

The net loss recorded by BL before extraordinary items was £81 million, slightly worse than the previous year's £74.3 million.

Battle likely over SE rules plan

By Jeremy Warner

The Stock Exchange white paper on wideranging changes in the membership rules and new dealing practices is due to be launched by Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman at a press conference soon.

Parts of the white paper are expected to face fierce opposition from sections of the membership and will need a considerable public relations exercise to gain the favourable vote they need at a meeting of the Exchange's 4,500 members on June 4.

The most controversial aspect of the paper are the proposals for allowing new corporate members into the market. New stock market firms will be required to buy at least 100 shares in the Exchange from members while existing firms will need to hold at least 50 shares.

Potential opposition from small stockbroking firms in London and the regions with fewer than 10 partners is likely to be defused by a proposal that they be exempted from the need to hold 50 shares but the paper will still face opposition from a considerable number of the market's 2,160 associate members.

Their shares in the Exchange will command an insignificant value under the present proposals and may believe they should be more adequately compensated for the loss of income that is likely to result from the coming upheaval in British securities trading. Mr Derek Greenwood, chairman of the seven-man committee set up last year to coordinate opposition to the Exchange's proposals, said: "From what I have read in the Press of the proposals, we would not be happy

ICI chairman's pay increases by 68%

By Our Business Correspondent

Harvey-Jones: defending £116,000 rise

Mr John Harvey-Jones, the chairman of ICI, had his pay increased last year by more than £2,200 a week, while the other seven executive directors of the company – the first non-oil company to make profits of more than £1 billion in a year – also had substantial pay rises it was disclosed yesterday.

ICI's 1984 annual report and accounts showed that Mr Harvey-Jones' total pay rose from £170,999 to £287,261, an increase more than £116,000 – or 68 per cent. The bulk of the increase resulted from the performance-related bonus scheme which ICI introduced with effect from 1983. The scheme links the directors' salaries to ICI's profit performance.

The dramatic improvement in ICI's results last year, with pretax profits jumping from £619 million to £1,034 billion has helped to push the total directors' salary bill up from just under £1.2 million to just over £1.7 million. All eight of the company's executive directors now earn more than £175,000 a year, whereas none did in 1983.

ICI said yesterday that Mr Harvey-Jones' basic salary had gone up from £158,649 to £190,000, and his bonus payments from £12,500 to more than £97,000. This is close to the maximum permitted under the bonus scheme, which lays down that bonus payments should not exceed 50 per cent of a director's pay.

The scale of the increases was defended yesterday by Mr Harvey-Jones. He said: "It is not for us to say if we are worth what we are paid," he said. "Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all will do that, and rightly so.

"But I hope that he and they will consider the responsibilities that all ICI directors carry (and incidentally relish) and the way in which the company is now performing".

The pay figures contained in yesterday's annual report show that six employees in ICI now earn more than £100,000 a year, the first time that a non-board member has achieved a six-figure alary.

Downturn in economy 'next year'

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The longer leading index for the economy fell by 1.6 per cent last month, the Central Statistical Office announced yesterday.

The figures, published before the Budget, underlined the contiuning uncertainty over the next turning point in the economy.

The Government's statisticians originally thought the economy would begin to turn down this month. Now they say "this view cannot be supported at the moment". Recent figures have suggested that the cyclical upswing will continue through this year, with the latest statistics pointing to a slowdown early next year.

The longer leading index was pushed down by high interest rates. Although rates rose in January, the full month's effect of this was not felt until February.

The shorter leading index rose by 0.5 per cent in January, the latest month for which data are available. The coincident and lagging indices also rose.

The Central Statistical Office says that the miners' strike, in particular, has upset the cylical indicators and made interpretation difficult. Even so, the economy may have paused around the turn of the year.

ASC proposals expected to be shelved

By Ian Griffiths

The Accounting Standards Committee is expected to shelve its proposals next week for the way in which companies should account for the effect of inflation on their annual results.

Comments on the proposals, set out in exposure draft 35, have been analysed and it is clear from these that a new accounting standard, based on ED 35, would not be accepted by commerce and industry.

The main criticisms were that the proposals in ED 35, which is based largely on current-cost accounting principles, were too inflexible and that the requirement to produce inflation-adjusted financial information, which would be subject to audit and form part of the auditor's report on the truth and fairness of the accounts, was unacceptable.

Given the extent of this criticism, the ASC will be forced to abandon ED 35

A number of alternatives have already been devised, including one based on the five-year summary of results which listed companies are obliged to include in their accounts.

Under this proposal the financial data in the summary would be adjusted by reference to the Retail Price Index

IN BRIEF

Sung Hung sells bank

Sung Hung Kai & Company the Hong Kong financial group is elling off its banking arm to arab Banking Corporation (ABC) as part of an extensive internal reorganization: ABC is paying HK\$360 million (£46 million) to gain a 75 per cent stake in the banking arm, Sung Hung Kai Bank, which ran into trouble in 1983 when it suffered a run of deposits.

ABC will inject a further HK\$372 million cash into the bank in convertible preference shares. The remaining 25 per cent in the bank will be held by Mr Fung King Hey, who will capitalize a HK\$120 million soft loan he made in 1983 to help shore up the bank.

Mnemos losses rise to £6m

Mnemos, the USM-quoted manufacturer of data storage systems, announced increased operating losses in the nine months to December 31 of \$7.6 million (£6.7 million) compared with a previous loss of \$5.6 million.

Combined Technologies Corporation, which owns 53 per cent of Mnemos, announced a nine-month attributable loss of £2.5 million against £1 million

Mr Richard Lawson, 53, joint senior partner of W. Greenwell, the stockbroking firm, has been elected deputy chairman of the Stock Exchange in succession to Mr Patrick Mitford-Slade who will be retiring on June 25. Mr Lawson has been a member of the Stock Exchange Council since 1973 and has served on six of the council's eight standing committees. Most recently he has been chairman of the membership committee.

Jaguar outlook

Despite efforts by Jaguar to play down some market expectations, analysts are expecting bumper results when the car group unveils results since privatization tomorrow.

Tempus, page 23

Lower Horizon

Trading profits at Horizon Travel, the package tour company, tumbled by more than half in the last full year to November. But the sale of an aircraft and a currency gain involved in an aircraft deal brought pretax profits at £12.51 million virtually to the previous year's level.

Tempus, page 23

Barratt interim profits tumble

Bad television publicity, high interest rates and the miners' strike helped to push interim pretax profits at Barratt Developments down from £19 million last time to £4 million in the half year to December 31, 1984.

The slump had been widely anticipated and reflects the corrective action by the company after a drop in demand due to critical television programmes in the last two years.

Barratt had been budgeting to build aroung 18,000 homes a year before the problems arose. This has now been reduced to 12,000. In the first half 5,350 homes were completed, down from 7,000 on the same period the previous year. Turnover edged ahead to £272.8 million against £259.4 million last time.

The interim dividend of 2.31p is being maintained but

Tempus, page 23

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	997.5(+2.1)
FT- A All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	80.46(+0.16)
FT-SE 100	1304.5(+4.2)
Bargains:	25,271
New York	
Dow Jones	1253.97(+4.31)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,477.99 (-28.65)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	1300.97(-9.50)
Amsterdam:	205.4(-1.8)
Sydney: AO	793.8(+3.5)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1217.1(+3.1)
Brussels:	
General	302.82(-2.96)
Paris: CAC	205.8(-1.3)
Zurich:	
SKA General	345.20(+2.00)

GOLD

London fixing:
am \$307.25 pm \$316.75
close \$317.75-\$318.25 (279.50-280)
New York: \$318.45
Comex (latest)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
CPU Computers	41 +8
Barratt Devel	78 +12
Sovereign Oil	207 +30
Lawrie Gp	1750 +250
Pearce, C. H.	800 +100
Paterson Zoch.	148 +15
Security Centres	155 +15
Burco Dean	26 +2
Markheath	95 +7
Microvitech	78 +5
Cape Ind	48 +3
De Brett, Andre	17 +1
Scantronic	142 +8
Croda Int	145 +8
FALLS:	
Barker & Dobson	6¾ −1¾
VW Thermax	71 −17
Promtions House	28 −4
Amcliffe Holdings	32 −4
Automotive Prod.	56 −6
Pengkalen	550 −50
Riley Leisure	52 −4
Floyd Oil Part.	93 −7
Delyn Packaging	115 −8
Prestwich Holdings	123 −8
Pineapple Dance	66 −4

CURRENCIES

London:
£: \$1.1365 (+0.0298)
£: DM 3.7226 (+0.0256)
£: SwFr 3.16 (+0.0150)
£: FFr 11.3724 (+0.0844)
£: Yen 291.45 (+3.92)
£ Index: 74.0 (+1.0)
New York:
£: \$1.1405
\$: DM 3.2660
\$ Index: 151.7 (−2.2)
ECU £0.597007
SDR £0.874459

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 13¼ - 13⅛
3-month eligible bills 12¾ - 12$^{11}/_{16}$
buying rate
US:
Prime Rate 10.50%
Federal Funds 8$^{9}/_{16}$
3-month Treasury Bills 8.63-8.59
Long bond 94; yield 94$^{13}/_{32}$ - 94$^{17}/_{32}$

WALL STREET

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

[illegible]

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

[illegible]

Dow shows early gain

New York (AP-Dow Jones) – Shares showed a small overall gain in active early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was ahead 2.98 points at 1,252.65.

Advances were about 25 issues ahead of declines.

Mr Anthony Ludovici, vice-president at Tucker Anthony & R. L. Day, said: "The stock market had another tough time yesterday but it has reached a near-term oversold condition and should firm and rally. The 1,240-1 250 support line should hold."

Mr Ludovici says this is still a bull market. And his answer to the question of what should be done is "buy on dips".

International Business Machines was 128¾ up ⅜; General Motors 75¾ up ⅛; Teledyne 254 down 3; Texas Instruments 110⅛ up ⅜; General Electric 61 up ⅛; Digital Equipment 101½ up ½; Burroughs 57¾ unchanged; Unocal 48⅞ up 1⅜ and UAI 43¾ off ½.

Gulf & Western was up 1¾ to 31¾. It was recommended by Shearson Lehman Brothers.

Stone Container slipped ⅝ to 25¼ after being taken off the recommended list by Oppenheimer & Co.

Among the broadcasters, American Broadcasting was 107⅞ up 1⅜; Capital Cities 209½ up 26; CBS 96 up 1¾; RCA 41⅛ up ¾ and Taft Broadcasting 63½ up 2.

Katy Industries was up 2 at 36⅝; Merck was down ½ at 99⅞; Phillips Petroleum down 1⅜ to 43⅞ and Viacom up 1¾ to 42¾.

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

New London Oil ready to float

By Jeremy Warner

A £38 million oil company is being floated on the Stock Exchange by the merchant bankers, Robert Fleming.

About 6.5 million shares in New London Oil – equal to 30 per cent of the total – are being offered for sale at 175p each to raise £9.5 million after expenses for investment in US oil exploration and development acreage.

New London has acreage in the Baldwin and Kincald fields of South East Kansas which is yielding sufficient cash flow to cover the company's operating costs.

It has options to acquire interests in proved undeveloped properties in Weld County, Colorado and in exploration prospects in Washington County, Colorado, and Laramie County, Wyoming.

Independent petroleum consultants have estimated that the future net revenue of proved, probable and possible reserves discounted at 10 per cent per annum is about $98.8 million.

Mr Richard Webb, chief executive, said that despite the soft world oil price, the timing was right for investment in oil exploration and development because drilling costs were at a 10-year low.

Application lists will open at 10 am next Monday and dealings in the shares are expected to start the next week.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Period rates eased further, encouraged by a strong pound to look for lower interest rates after the Budget. But day-to-day funding stayed expensive, with 15¼-15 per cent ruling most of the morning, 15½-¼ per cent at lunchtime, and a mid-afternoon surge to 20 per cent. Towards the finish, the rate came off a little, to 18-15 per cent and the close was around 16 per cent.

Period rates fell smartly in the first part of the day, but lifted a little off the bottom when a flow of funds out of Eurosterling abated around mid-morning. The key three month interbank term deposit ended 3/16 lower at 13¼-⅛ per cent.

Rates on longer sterling CD's tended to back up to interbank levels in the afternoon.

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 14
Finance House 12½

Discount Market Loans %
Overnight: High 15 Low 14¾
Week fixed: 14-13⅞

Treasury Bills (Discount %)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	13⅛	2 months	12⅞
3 months	12 23/32	3 months	12⅝

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 13 15/32-13 13/32; 2 months 13 1/16-12⅞; 3 months 12¾-12 11/16; 6 months 11½-11¼

Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 14 3/16; 2 months 13 11/16; 3 months 13⅜; 6 months 12½

Interbank (%)
Overnight: open 15¼-15 close 13⅞-13⅞
1 week 14¼-14⅛; 6 months 12¾-12¼
1 month 13 9/16-13 7/16; 9 months 12⅜-12⅛
3 months 13¼-13⅛; 12 months 12½-12

Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 days 14⅛; 7 days 14½
1 month 13⅞; 3 months 13 5/16
6 months 12 9/16; 12 months 12 1/16

Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 month 14⅛-13⅞; 2 months 14-13¾
3 months 13⅝-13½; 6 months 13-12¾
9 months 12⅝-12⅜; 12 months 12½-12⅛

Sterling CDs (%)
1 month 13 11/16-13 9/16; 3 months 13 3/16-13 1/16
6 months 12 7/16-12 5/16; 12 months 12⅛-12

Dollar CDs (%)
1 month 8.90-8.80; 3 months 9.25-9.15
6 months 9.85-9.75; 12 months 10.80-10.70

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Dollar: 7 days 8 11/16-8 7/16; call 8¾-7¾; 3 months 9⅝-9¼; 1 month 8 13/16-8 13/16; 6 months 10-9⅞
Deutschmark: 7 days 5 13/16-5 11/16; call 6⅛-5⅞; 3 months 6 3/16-6 1/16; 1 month 5 15/16-5 13/16; 6 months 6 7/16-6 5/16
French Franc: 7 days 10⅝-10⅜; call 11-10; 3 months 11⅜-11 1/16; 1 month 10 13/16-10 11/16; 6 months 11⅝-11½
Swiss Franc: 7 days 1⅞-1⅜; call 3⅜-2⅞; 3 months 5 15/16-5 13/16; 1 month 5⅞-5⅜; 6 months 5 15/16-5 13/16
Yen: 7 days 6 5/16-6 3/16; call 6½-5½; 3 months 6½-6⅜; 1 month 6⅝-6½; 6 months 6¾-6⅝

GOLD

[illegible]

Krugerrand* (per coin): $327-328.50 (£287.50-289)
Sovereigns* (new): $75-76 (£66-67)
*Excludes VAT

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 6 February 1985, to 5 March, 1985, inclusive: 13.883 per cent.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The pound surged in hectic trading on foreign exchanges, continuing Monday's good rise.

The advance in sterling was caused partly by the large fall in the dollar and partly by optimism ahead of the Budget.

Though the pound closed well off the top, having peaked at $1.1445 briefly in the mid-session, it still managed almost a three-cent rise against the dollar, to close at -1.365.

The dollar came under heavy selling pressure in European trading in the morning the continued nervousness about the Ohio Savings and loan failure and its possible repercussions on the banking system. It suffered heavy losses against most leading currencies

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range March 19	Market rates close March 19	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.1110-1.1445	$1.1355-1.1375	0.48-0.45c prem	1.02-0.98c prem
Montreal	$1.5305-1.5795	$1.5596-1.5658	0.45-0.35c prem	0.72-0.58c prem
Amsterdam	4.1573-4.2365fl	4.2002-4.21335	2⅝-2¼c prem	6⅜-5¾c prem
Brussels	73.90-75.40f	74.72-74.97f	2⅞-1¾c prem	5⅝-4⅜c prem
Copenhagen	13.1970-13.3770k	13.3103-13.3505k	24-18ore prem	48-39ore prem
Dublin	1.1905-1.2048p	1.1935-1.1945p	2 prem-15p disc	2 prem-44p disc
Frankfurt	3.6798-3.7536m	3.7178-3.7278m	2⅝-2⅛pf prem	6⅝-6pf prem

[illegible]

Sterling index compared with 1975 was up 1.0 at 74.0 (day's range 74.0-73.1).

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

[illegible]

Netherlands 3.6875-3.7025; France 9.9800-9.1000; Japan 256.00-256.20; Italy 2125-2155; Belgium(Comm) 65.75-65.85; Hong Kong 7.7985-7.8005; Portugal 183-185.50; Spain 181.30-181.50; Austria 22.96-23.06

OTHER STERLING RATES

[illegible]

Malaysia dollar 2.9128-2.9227; Mexico peso 245-270; New Zealand dollar 2.5210-2.5481; Saudi Arabia riyal 4.1050-4.1450; Singapore dollar 2.5571-2.5682; South Africa rand 2.1718-2.1800; United Arab Emirates dirham 4.1780-4.2160

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel. **Lloyds Bank International.

COMPANY NEWS

● GEARHART (UK): Offer for Tesel, unconditional. As at March 18 acceptances had been received in respect of 3.94 million ordinary shares of Tesel (91.22 per cent). All the conditions of the offer having been satisfied, the offer has become unconditional in all respects. The offer will remain open for acceptance until April 4.

● GRANGES has entered into a agreement with CMP 1985 mineral partnership, whereby CMP will provide Granges with Can $2 million to be spent on Canadian exploration on behalf of the fund. The agreement is subject to the approval of all applicable regulatory bodies.

● DUNTON GROUP: Turnover was up to £539,613 (£322,806) for the six months to November 30 last. Net profit before tax was £78,449 (47,192), and tax £137 (nil). Earnings per share rose to 0.52p (0.127p). The contributions from brick-making and waste disposal trebled and were responsible for the profit increase.

● BARROW HAPBURN: In response to the rights issue of 6,519,188 ordinary shares, 5,890,472 shares about 90.4 per cent had been taken up by 3pm last Friday. The balance of 628,716 shares has been sold in the market at premium and the net proceeds of about 0.8p per share will be distributed pro rata among those shareholders originally entitled to them.

● ISLE OF MAN STEAM PACKET: The company has received from Island Carriers an outline of an alternative plan to the proposed merger with Manx shipping operations in Sealink UK. This outline envisages Steam Packt continuing to operate from Liverpool, and issuing 750,000 ordinary stock units to Island Express in consideration for the injection of Island Express vehicles, office property and £270,000 of net current assets.

● NORSK HYDRO has discovered oil in block 7120-6 in the Tromsoluket region off Northern Norway. It is the second oil find in the area.

More company news on Page 24

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
BTS Group 10p Ord (82pa)	78
Bennett & Fountain 10p Ord (10a)	12½
Bluebird Toys 10p Ord (90a)	140
Cons Tem Inv 20p Ord (105a)	95
Cullen's Hldgs 10p Ord	122
German Smaller Co's Inv Units	109−1
Hillsdown Hldgs 10p Ord*	165
Mann & Co 20p Ord (145)	157
Mayhew Foods 10p Ord (100a)	125
Memcom Int 10p Ord (a)	285
Optometrics (U.S.A.) 1c par value (55a)	44−1
Osborne & Little 5p Ord (125a)	205
Pacific Assets Tst 50p Ord (100)	77
Pepe Group 10p Ord (100a)	103+1
Sams Catering Butch 5p Ord (128a)	158
Spafax Television 25p Ord (68a)	102
Synapse Comp Serv 5p Ord (174a)	325
Whitworth's Food 5p Ord (95a)	118

Issue price in parentheses. a Unlisted Securities. * by tender.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Adam & Company	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Citibank Savings †	12¾%
Consolidated Crds	14%
Continental Trust	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%
Citibank NA	14%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £2,000, 11%; £2,000 up to £10,000, 12%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 12¼%; £50,000 and over, 12½%.

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCKS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND. OFFICIAL DEALINGS IN THE STOCKS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH 1985.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 18th March 1985, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the Stocks listed below:

£250 million 11 per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1991

£500 million 9¾ per cent CONVERSION STOCK, 2001

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market closing price of the relevant Stock on 18th March 1985 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 18th March 1985 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects pari passu with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions of its prospectus, save as to the particulars therein which related solely to the initial sale of the Stock.

Copies of the prospectus for 11 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1991 dated 6th April 1979 and of the prospectus dated 27th May 1983 for 10¼ per cent Treasury Convertible Stock, 1987 (which contained the terms of issue of 9¾ per cent Conversion Stock, 2001) may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London EC4M 9AA.

Application had been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

The Stocks are repayable at par, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below:

Stock	Redemption Date	Interest payment dates
11 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1991	25th October 1991	25th April, 25th October
9¾ per cent Conversion Stock, 2001	10th August 2001	10th February, 10th August

Dealings in the further tranche of 11 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1991 for settlement prior to 25th April 1985 will, in common with the existing Stock, be effected on an ex-dividend basis.

The further tranches of 9¾ per cent Conversion Stock, 2001 will rank for a full six months' interest on the next interest on 10th August 1985.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON

18th March 1985

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Sterling vies with Chancellor to influence share prices

By Pam Spooner

A strong performance by sterling produced many of yesterday's stock market movements, with the Budget news almost taking second place to that from the foreign exchanges.

The pound went firmly back into the \$1.13-£1.14 range against the American currency, close to 7 cents better than the low levels seen in recent weeks.

Hopes of interest rate cuts were high, though there seemed little chance that any reduction would spread as far as mortgage rates. The building societies still reckon to need an increase in charges to borrowers in order to keep up with the rises in moneymarket rates over the past two months.

As a result, government stocks were less glittering than might be expected, showing rises of just £⅛ to £¼ by the end of the day.

Share prices reacted more strongly, especially those of companies which have enjoyed sterling's weakness lately. **BAT Industries**, for example, fell 15p to 360p early in the day as the analysts realized the fall in dollar worth against sterling will mean lower-than-expected earnings in British currency terms.

Jaguar shares also felt the sting of a weaker dollor, as did Christies International, the auctioneers which has benefited from the same cause. **Christies** shares fell 10p to 630p.

In the main share lists price edged higher following the news from the Chancellor, and the FT 30 Share Index turned a small fall into a 2.1 point gain to 997.5. The FT-SE 100 Share Index showed the same pattern with a 4.2 point rise to 1304.5.

Bank shares had a firmer tone to them after the scare from South Africa on Monday. The Government there has announced an extra tax on deposits for banks and there was some nervousness that our own Budget would produce similar shocks.

Barclays and Standard Chartered, however, are affected by the changes in South Africa, though not as badly as at first was feared. Both banks are expected to see net earnings lowered by about £13.5 million each for their African operations. **Barclays** slipped another 2p to 572p and **Standard** dipped 2p to 464p.

Insurance brightened after the Budget speech, with life companies showing double-figure rises by the end of the day. **Brittannic Assurance** rose 17p to 680p and **Sun Life Assurance** chalked up a 28p gain to 785p. The Chancellor has not taxed pensions as was expected.

On the composite lists, **Commercial Union** rose 5p to 201p. **General Accident** - a recent favourite with many analysts - rose 21p to 601p. **Guardian Royal Exchange** rose 18p to 699p and **Royal Insurance** rose 17p ot 613p.

Insurance brokers were looking less lively alongside the weaker trend for the dollar, source of much of the sector's earnings.

S & W Berisford registered a 10p loss to 161p at one stage yesterday at the chairman, Mr Ephraim Margulies finally confirmed City fears of a fall in group pretax profits this year. He told the annual meeting that smaller profits from British Sugar and from international commodity trading were causing the problems, as predicted by certain analysts of the company.

Some brokers stick to a forecast of £75 million, but Henderson Crosthwaite, the broking firm which pinpointed the problems a few months ago, also sticks to its just under £70 million forecast for 1985. In 1983 Berisford made profits of £80.2 million, a rise of 44 per cent on the previous year.

Hestair was quickly highlighted as a company which will benefit from the Chancellor's abolition of development land tax. The company has property in the Guildford area which is ripe for redevelopment. Hestair shares picked up 1p to 71p following the Budget.

Shares in **Laing Properties** rose 10p to 310p alongside full-year results showing profits of £13.2 million, against £11.1 million in 1983. Investment income, helped by North American earnings boosted by the strong dollar, rose from £18.5 million to £23 million. The results were also helped by the elimination of tax charges.

The final dividend will be 3.75p per share, making a total payout of 6.25p. Earnings per share have risen from 11.6p to 20.4p a share, on a fully diluted basis.

BICC shares stay at the lower end of their trading range, up 1p at 231p yesterday. The company reports full-year figures next week and City forecasts vary from £92 million to £98 million for 1984 against the £82 million scored in 1983.

L Messel & Company, the stockbroker, pitches its estimate at £92.5 million, well below the average, and rates the shares a "buy". And, while some market men reckon BICC is a possible source of next week's stock market cash call, the balance sheet looks strong. Gearing currently is reckoned to be about 18 to 20 per cent, leaving a rights issue necessary only for significant strategic expansion.

Other companies in the electrical and engineering sector saw gains of a few pence scattered across the lists as trading slowed almost to a standstill for the Budget speech. **Electronic Machine** stays firm, up 1p at 50p for a two-day gain of 9p. The company, which makes electronic components and devices, was tipped in a City investment letter earlier this week.

Ferranti nudged 6p higher to 160p as investors' interest reawakens. The shares have drifted in recent weeks alongside a weak electricals sector, and now leading stocks such as Ferranti look cheap.

Systems Designers International rose another 30p to 580p, making a two-day rise of 45p, after news on Monay of profits of £2.9 million for 1984 and a four for one scrip issue.

But **Bestobell**, which was due to report full year figures today, looked unhappy, down 11p at 237p. The shares have suffered since last month's warning of another setback for profits in Australia and Africa, and news of a delay for the results did not help.

Muirhead picked up another 4p to 160p as market stories of a takeover approach

Following the good results recently from Pittard Group and Strong & Fisher Holdings, market observers are now looking closely at Garnar Booth, another company doing well out of the leather business. De Zoete & Bevan, the stockbroker, reckons Garnar has made £4.6 million in the year to January, against £3.2 million in 1983/4. Mr Nyren Scott-Malden, analyst at De Zoete, believes the current p/e of around 5.5 is too low. Yesterday the shares rose 8p to 20p.

Statham Duff Stoop, the stockbroker, has placed 1.5 million shares in Crown International Productions, the film and video production company which provides services to business groups, at 60p each. Dealings in Crown begin on Friday on the USM. The company is capitalized at £3.6 million at the placing price and is rated on a prospective p/e of 7.2 on an actual tax basis.

TEMPUS

Why Jaguar is coy about profits

Tomorrow, we will hear the 1984 results of Jaguar, the fomer BL subsidiary which was so spectacularly privitized last July. Since then, the company's shares have more than doubled. There are signs that the Jaguar management, under its chief executive and chairman, Mr John Egan, is trying to dampen some of the wilder market predictions that profits will reach £120 million, against the comparable 1983 pretax figure of £50 million. Something between £90 million and £100 million looks much more reasonable and highly creditable. None the less it is not hard to see why some analysts may have been looking for more.

Much was made last July of the sensitivity of Jaguar's profits to the dollar exchange rate. With the bulk of its sales now in the United States, Mr Egan and his colleagues have cause to be thankful for a strong dollar. It not only inflates their reported sterling profits, but also – equally significantly – has allowed them to preserve their already marked competitive pricing edge over comparable manufacturers in the luxury saloon market on the other side of the Atlantic.

What Mr Egan may be regretting is the explicitness with which the exchange rate factor was highlighted in the prospectus. This gave some "purely illustrative" figures which showed what Jaguar's 1983 profits might have been had the pound's value against the dollar been other than the \$1.52 which was the actual figure.

The figures given showed that at \$2 to the pound, Jaguar would have made an operating loss of £5 million, instead of its actual 1983 operating profit of £51 million, while at \$1.20 to the pound – the lowest figure which the prospectus was prepared to speculate on in those far-off days – the operation profit would have been £112 million.

These are average year figures and are not immediately comparable with today's exchange rates. But it is not surprising that, if the company might have made £112 million in 1983 at \$1.20 to the pound, some analysts might have expected at least as good a result in 1984, when the dollar finished the year at around that level (it is now about \$1.13).

One change that has happened since flotation is that Jaguar has begun to take out foreign exchange cover in a way that it never did before. Since the autumn it has adopted a policy of selling most of its anticipated dollar receipts in advance.

This was something which Jaguar's former parent, BL, had always eschewed, and something also which Mr Hamish Orr-Ewing, the man brought in befor flotation to be chairman, specifically ruled out at an eve of share issue press conference.

The shares have roared up from 170p to 357p since they arrived on the market, and the historic p/e ratio of 15 is leaving little room for any pit stops.

Horizon Travel

How vulnerable that bid target Horizon Travel has been emerged with yesterday's full year results to last November. Turnover at £151.9 million was up more than a fifth but trading profit took a nosedive of 59 per cent to £5.15 million.

Horizon, hitherto lauded for achieving high margins, increase in the number of holidaymakers catered for, and its market share, lost on margins as it was drawn into discounting with the rest of the market. No-surcharge guarantees also added a currency change burden.

Group pretax profits at £12.5 million virtually maintained the previous year's level for two reasons. Sale of a Boeing 737-200 brought in £5.68 million. There was also an exceptional currency gain of £1.68 million from an aircraft deal.

Horizon is bringing in some new generation Boeing 737-300s and two more of the earlier versions are now being sold in deals likely to raise another £14 million. Provision for tax has thus jumped to £4.15 million. But the final dividend is 3.52p against 3.12p last time, making the dividend for the year 4.4p aainst 4p. Earnings per share are down to 19.47p against 28.32p in 1983.

There is, however, no profits forecast being made for the current year. The much-publicized higher prices for package holidays should apparently improve margins – or so the argument goes. Horizon will market its share of bargain offers for late bookings but maintains it will be the Spanish hoteliers footing the bill this time and not tour operators. Horizon is clearly going to find it difficult to hang on to its market share.

Barratt Developments

For the second year in succession Barrett Developments chose to publish its interim results on Budget day, and for the second year in a row the figures are bad. Pretax profits fell from £19 million last year to £4 million, in the six months to December 32 last.

This slump is largely a function of drastic action the company was forced to take to counter the effects, largely, of two less than favourable television programmes. Whether the adverse publicity which Barratt attracted was fair is almost academic; the impact on the company's performance has been devastating.

Twelve months ago Barratt had budgetted to sell 18,000 houses a year in Britain that figure has now been cut to 12,000 and the company might still struggle to achieve its target. Much will depend on mortgage anf interest rates which the chairman, Sir Lawrie Barratt, can do little about.

He has certainly attempted to solve the problems which he can control. The group structure has been rationalized to cut overheads; product mix has been altered to bring petter margins; the company has concentrated its attention more on the buoyant South-east of England and the decision has been taken to shift away from the substantial reliance on the first-time buyer.

It all sounds good in theory but practical difficulties do not make implementation easy. The company has run up huge borrowings of £151 million –they were only around £30 million 18 months ago. For a company which relies very much on sound cashflow for its progress such levels of debt are an unwelcome constraint. Some small sales of land have been made and Barratt might be forced to embark on a muuch more positive divestment programme if it is to make significant inroads into borrowings. Much as he may not want to, Sir Lawrie might be forced to sell off some of the local companies, perhaps in Scotland.

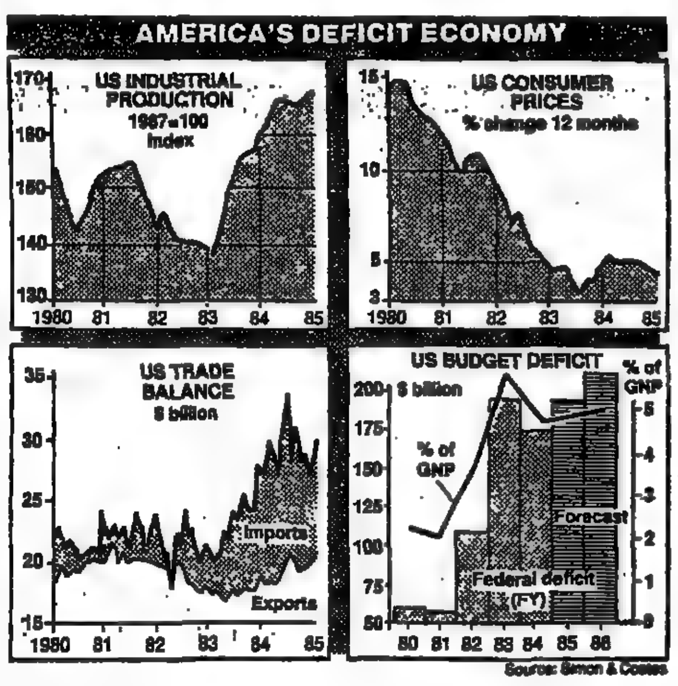
To add to difficulties at home Barratt is not having a happy time in the US. Again high interest and mortgage rates are at the root of the problems and profits in the first half dipped by £1 million to around £400,000 despite an increase in units sold.

The company's efforts to restore order, commended in themselves, may not be enough to bring recovery in the short term. Barratt is still at the mercy of the housing market climate. Its continued pursuit of volume sales will hit profits. There has been talk of a bid but there are still too many doubts to justify renewed interest in the shares at this stage.

US ECONOMY

Nervous markets keep spotlight trained on Fed

As an obscure provincial banking crisis puts the dollar under strain, Bailey Morris, US Economics Correspondent, looks at the tensions within the American economy that make confidence so crucial.



Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is once again caught in a policy vice in the aftermath of the breakdown of public confidence which resulted in a massive run on deposits against savings associations in Ohio.

Before the Ohio crisis, it was widely expected that the Fed, which acts as a central bank, would take a deep breath and begin tightening controls to rein in the US money supply, which is growing way over the targets, re-igniting inflation fears.

But now that public confidence has been shaken in a manner reminiscent of the 1930s, Mr Volcker's options are less clear, a fact not lost on nervous financial markets.

The Fed, given the deposit run and some unsettling new data showing a sharper than expected slowdown in industrial production last month, is not in a position to tighten. Indeed, many economists believe the Fed will have to take additional strong steps to calm public anxieties over the safety of the financial system.

But it cannot afford to err too much on the side of easier credit. Nor would Mr Volcker sanction such a move following the overshooting of monetary targets which resulted from the Fed's earlier action to pump up the flagging economy before the presidential elections.

The real cause of the often frantic, unpredictable activity on markets in recent weeks, however, is a basic unease over the future course of the US economy as evidenced by the growing debate over the sustainability of the fast-paced recovery which began in November, 1983.

Mr Volcker has been sounding warnings even more strongly in recent weeks that it cannot last for more than a year, if that long, under the twin pressures of record federal budget deficits projected at \$220 billion this year and record trade deficits, which amounted to \$123 billion in 1984 and are projected at up to \$160 billion this year.

The Reagan Administration does not agree, noting correctly that most economists, worried about the ill effects of the deficit were dead wrong in their predictions. Instead of the gloom and slowdown many predicted, the American economic pace has remained buoyant, growing at a rate of 4.9 per cent in the final quarter of last year, inflation has remained low, and unemployment has been falling.

But even the optimistic economic report of the President, issued last month, cautioned that this will occur only if Mr Reagan's policies are followed to the letter and the budget deficit is reduced substantially.

The opening round in Mr Reagan's budget battle with Congress last week was not encouraging. Although Senate Republicans, after weeks of infighting, were able to quell a party revolt and report out of the budget committee a \$55 billion deficit reductions plan, the document was immediately criticized.

Meanwhile, the White House is refusing to negotiate on military spending. Instead of £55 billion in cuts, Congressional veterans are now predicting they will be lucky to get \$20 billion.

America is fast becoming the world's largest debtor nation. On December 31, the total federal debt reached a record \$1,663 billion, up from \$930 billion when Mr Reagan took office and up from 35.5 per cent of US gross national product to 44 per cent. On Monday Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Commerce Secretary, said that America's foreign debts had overtaken its foreign assets.

This has raised questions even among the most optimistic of Mr Reagan's supporters over whether the debt can be managed. Net interest payments on the American debt have more than doubled since 1980.

Even if Mr Reagan is successful in reducing the deficit by \$50 billion in fiscal 1986, which appears unlikely, more than half of the savings would be eaten up by rising interest payments on the still large deficit, analysts predict. The United States is also dependant to an unprecedented degree on foreign money to finance its debt which is potentially destabilizing.

A large portion of the money from the huge Japanese trade surplus, for example, is being invested in American Treasury securities. Analysts estimate that a flood of capital, as much as \$100 billion a year, is currently moving through the world economy and that almost one half of it comes from Japan.

This money, invested in high-yield, short-term vehicles, could begin to move out over night if either the dollar or American interest rates really begin to drop sharply, analysts believe. "You have to worry about the sustainability of it all," Mr C. Fred Bergsten, director of the Institute for International Economics, said in Washington.

The growing American trade deficit, its adverse effect on the underpinnings of the American economy, is also unsettling.

Mr Allen Sinai, chief economist for Shearson Lehman Brothers, believes the trade deficit, which he says has caused the sharp downturn in domestic output last summer, will trigger the next recession. He predicts that an increasing portion of the demand for goods will be satisfied by imports, causing a sharp increase in accumulated stocks and a sharp cutback in domestic output. "It will be the first time in history we have this kind of recession-motivating force

Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve board, to use a favourite American expression, is between a rock and a hard place. The strong dollar left the central bank with little room to manoeuvre. Even though the US money supply is growing well beyond the targets set by the central bank, raising fears of renewed inflation, the Fed has been reluctant to tighten controls to the point that interest rates and the dollar move higher. The Ohio crisis now makes the domestic consequences unpredictable too. At the same time, the central bank cannot afford a sharp drop in the dollar which would result in an outflow of foreign money, destabilizing the US economy.

Mr Volcker has stated that the most effective remedy would be a substantive deficit reduction this year by the Administration and Congress. In the absence of that, however, the Federal Reserve has been the last bulwark which is why investors and speculators follow its actions with obsessive care.

COMPANY NEWS

● *MICROFILM REPROGRAPHICS:* Half-year to December 31. Interim 0.5p (0.375p). Turnover £1.48 million (848.697). Pretax profit £189.819 (£83.689). *Tax nil* (nil). EPS 3.4p (2.46p and 2.32p fully diluted). Traditionally, the second half *is more profitable than* the first. In addition to this mormal seasonal Bias. Sales in all divisions *for January and February together* with the growth in new orders, indicates that the second half will show a *"substantially higher level"* of profit than in the same period last year.

● *COIN INDUSTRIES:* Half-year to Dec 31. Interim 1.1p (1.1p). Figures in £000. Turnover 5.756 (4.574). *Pretax profit* 248 (230).

● SHARPE AND FISHER: Final 1.64p (1.49p), making 2.25p (2p) for 1984. Figures in £000. Sales 45.917 (41.131). Pretax profit 2197 (1850). Asset value per share 55p (50p).

● T. CLARK: Results for 1984. Final 16.1 per cent making 23.1 per cent (21.175 per cent). Turnover £26.38 million (£21.75 million). Pretax profits £884,669 (£802.620).

● HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS: Dividend 2.8p (1.225p) for 1984. Figs in pounds millions. Turnover 983.2 (569.7). *Pretax profit* 18.9 (11.5). Tax 0.5 (0.1).

● AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS: Final 0.5p, making *1.5 (1p)* for year to Jan 4. Figs in millions of pounds. Turnover 235.6 (215.7) on continuing activities. *Pre-tax profit* 3.9 (4). The group is continuing its climb back from the recession, with growth *coming in France, Italy and* US and at the precision hydraulics division in Britain. Reorganization of the British automotive division, brake, clutch and steering, will facilitate the cost-reduction programme and operating effectiveness.

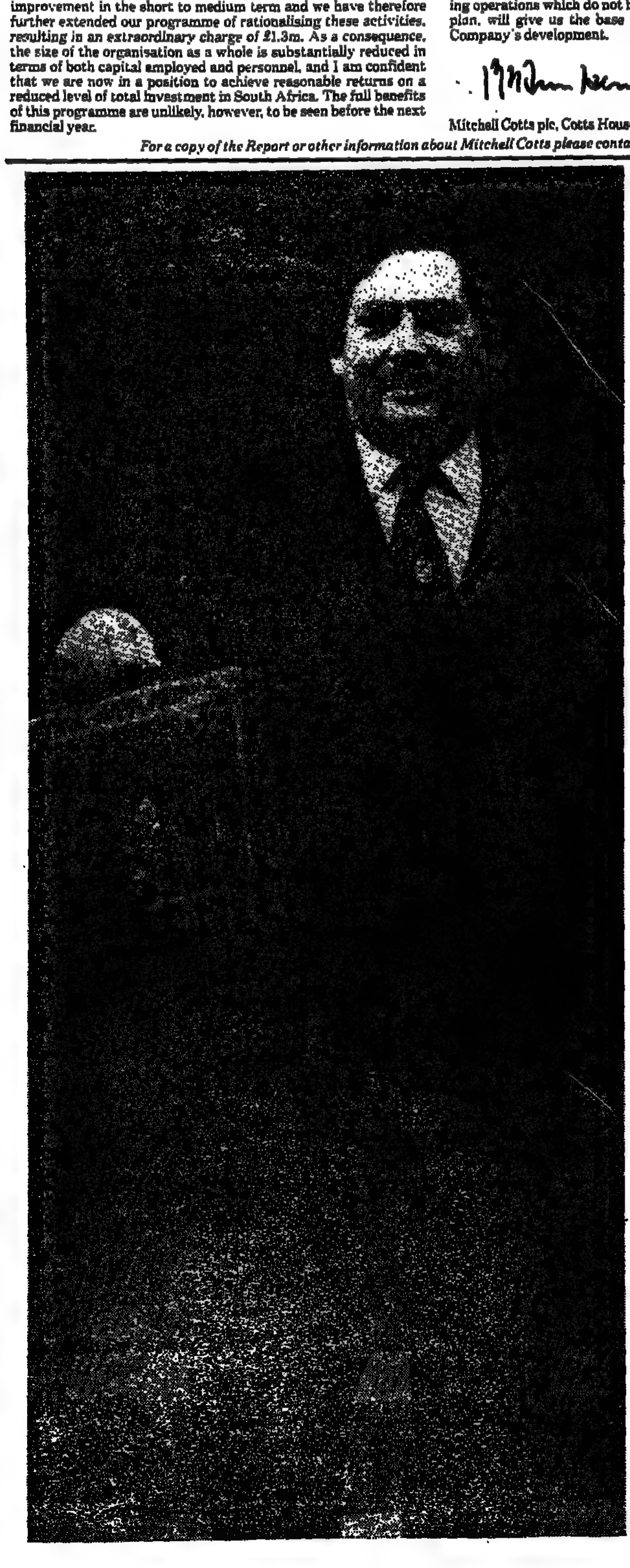
● A AND G SECURITY ELECTRONICS: Interim 0.475p (same). *(Figs in £000). Turnover 1953* (1909) for six months to Jan 31. Pretax profit 405 (457). The American marketing offshoot, A and G Security Products has now been established. Sales into America will begin in the second half. The company continues to place heavy emphasis on product development and expect to benefit from the new, specially developed microchip *products being introduced in the* second half. With cash balances in excess of £750,000. A and G *continues to be in a strong position* to take advantage of expansion and acquisition opportunities.

● *BODDINGTON'S BREWERIES: Final 1.62p, making* 2.85; (2.64p) for 1984. (Figs in £000). Turnover 51,587 (47,701. Pretax *profit* 9,458 (9,095).

● CRA SHARE PLACEMENT: A placement for five million shares has been *made to two of the* company's Japanese trading partners. The placement, at market *value, "represents a strong expression of CRA's commercial* relationships with these valued *customers." Application has been* made for the listing of these additional shares. As a result of the *placement, RTZ's interest in CRA* will be reduced from 52.9 to 52.3 per cent.

● WATMOUGHS (HOLDINGS) is proposing a one-for-four rights issue. Final 4.55p on increased capital, *making 6.25p (6.25p on old* capital) for 1984. The board intends to at least maintain the total dividend on the increased share of capital for the year. (Figs in £000). Turnover 27.001 (22.470). Pretax *profits* 2.300 (2.098). *Watmoughs is* raising about £5.2 million, after expenses by a right issue of 1-for-4 *ordinary shares held at 240p per* share. The issue has been underwritten.

● SPINNEYS, a member of the Steel Brothers group, has been awarded a £2 million ancillary services contrct at its fourth *NHS* hospital. The contract is for the supply of catering services at the 545-bed *Frenchay Hospital in* Bristol and will run for three years.



FOOTBALL: IMPORTANT NIGHT IN EUROPE FOR ENGLISH CLUBS

Chance for Walsh to prove a point

By Clive White

Without Dalglish what would *normally seem a formality for* Liverpool – going through to the next round after an away draw in *the first leg – suddenly* becomes a lot more difficult. Although Liverpool could progress to the semi-final round of the European Cup without scoring a goal at Anfield tonight, the likelihood is that Rush and company will have to put one or two in the back of the FK Austria net.

It all puts considerable pressure on young Walsh, who will again be replacing Dalglish, as he did so commendably in Vienna a fortnight ago. This time, Walsh will be expected to produce *even more in a* partnership with Rush which is barely in its infancy.

This will only be Walsh's second full game in Liverpool's last 12. He is fortunate to have by his side such *prolific goalscorers as Rush,* (12 goals in 21 European ties), and Wark (22 in 29 ties).

It is as a goal-scorer rather than a goal-maker that Liverpool envisage Walsh. There are constant rumours *of Rush's eventual departure* to the more lucrative world of Italian football.

The Liverpool team is the same as that which drew the first leg 1-1, Nichol's goal having placed the Austrians now under considerable obligation to attack. There will be no cat-and-mouse about this one: more of a dogfight.

Liverpool, the holders, are as solid as ever at the back after *permitting a few silly* scorelines at the start of the season. They have conceded only four goals in their last 11 games and only one against Tottenham last Saturday – in their last nine home fixtures.

F K *Austria whose* claim to European fame was as Cup Winners' Cup runners-up *in 1978*, are a side packed with experience and possibly 11 internationals, since the only one without a cap, Tuerner, who marked Rush in the first leg, is not playing.

Nyilasi, the gifted Hungarian, threatened a great deal but in the end achieved little and the quick, eager Steinkogler was disappointing in front of goal. Nevertheless they lead their national league though are probably a far cry from the "wunderteam" of the Twenties and Thirties.

● *MOSCOW:* The European Cup quarter-final, second leg match between Bordeaux and the Russian team, Dnepropetrovsk, has been postponed for a day, after the French champions were delayed in Keiv by fog (AFP reports). The game, due to be played at Krivoi Rog, 250 miles south of the Ukraine capital, because Dnepropetrovsk is closed to foreigners, has been put back until tomorrow afternoon. Bordeaux have loged a complaint with UEFA about the travel arrangements for the match.

Tottenham trust shield of optimism in Real palace

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Madrid

The Bernabeu Stadium is a palace built of white concrete and stone. From the emerald green carpet at its base, it rises seemingly to the heavens with floodlights for stars. When its tiered terraces are filled with a throbbing roar, Real Madrid's home, where the 1982 World Cup final was staged, is a formidable theatre in which to play.

Innsbrück, Rijeka and Anderlecht are the foreigners to have appeared there in the UEFA Cup so far this season, *and all of them have been* humbled. The Austrians lost 5-0, the Yugoslavs 3-0, and the Belgians 6-1. *Tonight Tottenham Hotspur,* the conquerors of Anderlecht in last year's final, will step inside the regal arena.

At least Tottenham have an idea of what to expect. *They appeared* there last September but the game, a testimonial for Benito, a former *international* defender, was a friendly exercise, which Real won 1-0, compared to a quarter-final tie.

Tottenham will take a shield of optimism in with them. They may be a *goal down from the first* leg but, as they confirmed over the weekend, they are more accomplished and *successful* outside White Hart Lane.

The absence of Stielike has *shortened the odds for Tottenham.* West Germany's sweeper was personally invited by Santiago *Bernabeu, Real's former president,* to become the control-tower of his club's defensive system. *Since guiding the less-experienced* markers in front of him a fortnight ago, he has been found to be suffering *from hepatitis.*

The presence of Butragueno lengthens them. Given the sobriquet of "El Buitre" (The Vulture), the gifted 21-year-old forward sank his sharp talons into Anderlecht *and* struck three times. Capable of feeding on any morsel that may be offered, he was *also responsible for* the goal, conceded inadvertently by Perryman, that separates the two clubs.

Even though Tottenham will be without Chiedozie, substituted at Anfield after injuring a hip, Peter Shreeves expects *to be able to select* the side that finished the historic afternoon in Liverpool. Miller, who *revealed that he escaped serious* injury by barely an inch after Dalglish's late challenge, will *definitely play*, despite a painful shin.

Galvin, suffering from a slight hamstring *strain*, and Hoddle, from various physical and mental bruises, should also recover.

It his representatives maintian *the spirit* they showed at Anfield, Shreeves believes they can survive. They are not *favoured to do so*, but *then* again nobody forecast that Real would win in north London.

REAL MADRID: M Angel; *M Chendo*, J Camacho, A Fraile, M Sanchis, J Salguero, A Santos, M Gonzalez, *E Butragueno, R Gallego*, J Valdano

TOTTENHAM: (probable): R Clemence, D Thomas, C Hughton, P Miller, G Roberts, S Perryman, G Hoddle, M Hazard, G Crooks, M Falco, T Galvin.

Olsen may miss out as Robson returns

From Peter Ball, Szekesfehervar

Manchester United are not traditionally noted for their ability to protect one-goal leads. Yet, perversely, some of their greatest performances in Europe have come when taking their slender advantage away with them.

Whether it will prove enough to enable them to survive the expected *onslaught from Videoton in their* UEFA Cup quarter-final second-leg, in the original Hungarian capital, *Szekesfehervar, will be decided this* afternoon. Their current form, undefeated for 10 games, gives them *reason for cautious optimism.*

The only slight cloud concerns Stapleton, who spent Monday in bed *with a return of the flu symptoms* that kept him out of the side two weeks ago. He was improving *yesterday, but his doctor's diagnosis*, that further recurrences of the illness are likely until his tonsils are *removed in the summer, makes him* questionable at an important stage in the season.

Otherwise, the health reports are good. Whiteside, who was written off at the weekend, is given a good chance. Robson, *although is specialist* says that he will continue to feel the now-repaired nerve in his *shoulder for up to six months, is also* fit.

Robson: full game

United's manager, Ron Atkinson, delayed *announcing his team until* the morning but, assuming Stapleton plays, the suggestions are that *both Robson and Whiteside will link* up in midfield and that Olsen may be the unlucky one who makes room *for them.*

Videoton, who showed little of their hand at Old Trafford, have apparently not thawed out properly *after their winter break.* They lost their last two league matches, to Pecs, and Raba ETO Gyor, United's *second round opponents*, and are now troubled with greater problems.

Their dangerous winter, Majer, *and a defender*, Csuhay, are both suspended, and their loss was compounded even more seriously by *an injury to their captain* and playmaker, Csongradi, who is said to be very doubtful. Unless Szabo recap*tures the form which saw him score* four goals in the prvious round against Partizan Belgrade, it bodes *well for United.*

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): G Bailey, J Gidman, A Albiston, M Duxbury, P McGrath, G Hogg, G Strachan, N Whiteside, F Stapleton, B Robson, *M Hughes, J Olsen.*

VIDEOTON (probables): P Disztl, T Vegh, I Borsanyi, L Disztl, G Horvath, G Burcsa, I Palkovics, G Wittman, J Szabo, G Vaszil, I Vadasz.

Referee: B Fredriksson (Sweden).

Everton sure to miss Gray power

From Simon O'Hagan Maastricht

Everton travelled here yesterday in the knowledge that they could well be returning to the Netherlands *in a couple of months'* time, for the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Rotterdam on May 15.

You will *not* find Howard Kendall making such references, however. Although his side take a *3-0 lead to* Fortuna Sittard, near here, in the competition's quarter-final second leg, the Everton *manager remains a* strict "take-each-game-as-it-comes" man. Even though his team may *have their off days*, as they *have* shown in the last fortnight, they do not have disastrous days.

The injuries which have contributed to Evertons' recent loss of rhythm continue to affect them. Sheedy and Bracewell will be missing from the midfield, although Reid is back after suspension. In *attack, Gray is out* because of an ankle injury.

In Gray's absence, the Dutch will *surely feel they have a chance.* After all, he beat them almost single-handedly at Goodison, scoring all *three goals in a display of individual* virtuosity not usually associated with Everton. Curran, as effervescent, stands by.

More significant, though is the continued disruption to Everton's *midfield, at its best an engine room* of sustained power. In Bracewell's absence, Richardson, who scored at Aston Villa on Saturday while deputizing for Reid, remains in the team, Harper keeps the place vacated *by Sheedy.*

If Fortuna are to exploit any uncertainty to which these changes in Everton's *ranks may give rise,* they will need Thijssen, the former Ipswich Town and Nottingham Forest midfield player, to rediscover the inventive skills sadly lacking in the first leg.

They will need their wingers, van Well and Philippen, to get round the back of Van den Hauwe and Stevens, and, in the absence of the suspended Holverda, they will need to give the tricky Hoyer plenty of support in the middle of the attack. *All in all, one* feels they will need rather too much.

FORTUNA SITTARD: A van Gerven; R Maessen, G Schrijnemakers, C Dekker, W Suvrijn, W Boessen, W Koevermans, F Thijssen, A van Well, R Philippen, A Hoyer.

EVERTON N Southall, G Stevens, P Van den Hauwe, K Ratcliffe, D Mountfield, P Reid, T Steven, A Harper, K Richardson, G Sharp, T Curran.

Clarke the joker in the Irish pack

Colin Clarke will cause a few identification problems when he turns up for Northern Ireland's friendly against Spain in Majorca next week.

As Gerry Armstrong remarked of *the Tranmere forward:* "I've never even heard of him."

But Armstrong, who is preparing to welcome his Irish team colleagues *to the holiday island where is now* based, added: "We've learnt to trust Billy Bingham's judgement – he has *the knack of finding players* who turn out to be winners."

NORTHERN IRELAND SQUAD: P Jennings (Arsenal), J Platt (Coleraine), J Nicholl (West Bromwich Albion), J O'Neill (Leicester), J McClelland (Watford), N Donaghy (Luton Town), N Worthington (Sheffield Wednesday), P Ramsey *(Leicester City)*, S McIlroy (Stoke City, capt), N Brotherston (Blackburn Rovers), N Whiteside *(Manchester United)*, I Stewart (Queen's Park Rangers), J Quinn (Blackburn Rovers), G Armstrong *(Real Mallorca)*, W Hamilton Oxford United), M McGaughey (Linfield), C Clarke (Tranmere Rovers).

● Liam Brady will celebrate his fiftieth appearance for the Republic of Ireland in next Tuesday's *friendly international* against England at Wembley, two days after playing for Internazionale against Juventus.

Missing from the 17-man squad are Alan Campbell and John Byrne. Campbell, who plays for Santander *in Spain*, has been dropped but Byrne will be helping the Republic's Under-21 side against England in Portsmouth on Monday.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SQUAD: P Bonner (Celtic), S Mcdonagh (Gillingham), C Hughton (Tottenham Hotspur), M Lawrenson (Liverpool), D O'Leary (Arsenal), M McCarthy (Manchester City), J Beglin (Liverpool), P McGrath *(Manchester United)*, R Whelan (Liverpool), A Grealish (West Brom Albion), G Waddock *(Queens Park Rangers)*, K Sheedy (Everton), L Brady (Internazionale), F Stapleton (Manchester United), M Robinson (Queen's Park Rangers), E O'Keefe (Port Vale), A Galvin (Tottenham Hotspur).

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND UNDER 21 SQUAD (for international against England at Fratton Park, Portsmouth next Monday): Kelly (Newcastle United), O'Neill (Bohemians), O'Regan (Brighton and Hove Albion), Coyle (Limerick City), Pender (Wolverhampton Wanderers), O'Doherty (Crystal Palace), Irwin (Leeds United), Kennedy (Portsmouth), Collins (Southampton), Donnellan (Chelsea), O'Connor (Bristol Rovers), D Neal (Millwall), Dempsey (Liverpool), Mooney (Liverpool), Byrne (Queen's Park Rangers), O'Callaghan (Portsmouth).

BADMINTON

Troke may be two years ahead of her time

By Richard Eaton

When a young Hampshire woman steps into the lights of Wembley Arena today there will be an intriguing glimmer of a chance that she can spring the most seismic surprise in the 86-year history of the All-England championships. The woman is Helen Troke, already at 20 the European and Commonwealth champion. To add this most coveted title of all, to her collection she would probably have to beat three Chinese players from the finest women's squad of all time.

The plan was to attempt it in two years' time. The present season, however, has provided sufficient evidence for speculation that a major breakthrough may be achieved now. Earlier *this* month, in Germany Miss Troke avenged a defeat in Malaysia by beating Guan Weizhen and has now taken the leading five Chinese to three games. In Hong Kong in January she sensationally *took Han Aiping, the world grand* prix title holder; to the setting in the third game.

Optimism and maturity seem to be emerging together. "For the first time she has come home and talked *openly about her losses," her father* said recently. Father, a policeman, and mother, a tax inspector, have been stalwart supporters of Britain's only major champion in any racket sport. Mother has just begun to work part-time in order to take charge of her daughter's public relations and *financial affairs*. The gap between Miss Troke and the top has narrowed.

One of the major obstacles is that Chinese players in any sport rarely compete determinedly against each *other in* international play, and never do so when threatened by a foreign rival for a big title. If Miss Troke gets past Wu Jianuqui, who beat her before winning the Japan *Open two months ago, she is likely* to meet either Qian Ping, the winner of the German Open, or Han Aiping *in the semi-finals; then in a* projected final either Sheng Yuli, the winner of the Danish Open, or Li Lingwei, the all-England champion.

Miss Troke: narrowing gap

Any of these opponents will be fresh, having participated in *bloodless rituals*. This is communism in action in sport and while it is usually unattractive for spectators, it is extremely effective. It finally scuppered the famous Dane, Lene Koppen, the champion in 1979 and 1980.

Apart from Martin Dew and Gillian Gilks, the favourites to retain the *mixed* doubles title, no other Britons have a good chance of progressing past the quarter-finals.

Mrs Gilks and Nora Perry, together again for the first time since winning the women's doubles *in 1980*, will be *confronted* by perhaps the best women's pair of all time in Wu Dixi and Lin Ying.

Steve Baddeley's reward for justifying his men's singles seeding would probably be a quarter-final with the No 2 seed, Zhao Jian-hua. Nick Yates, England's other joint No 1, has *the champion*, Morten Frost, of Denmark, in the first round. Baddeley and Dew are probably *in their last three months* together as England's leading but variable men's doubles pair. But come Friday it may well be the women's singles that catches the eye.

Organizers' TV gamble

The Badminton *Association of* England are taking a £25,000 gamble on world demand for television pictures of the All-England championships.

For the first time in a decade, *British television companies* are not covering the five-day championships. But the association have hired a *freelance company* to cover the Yonex-sponsored event and hope to recoup their outlay through sales of pictures abroad. The BBC will be handling the sales.

"I *suppose it is* rather unusual situation." Tommy Marrs, the promotions manager for the BAE said. "The BBC declined to cover the event because they say viewing figures have been poor and Sunday's finals clash with the Milk Cup final."

There will be 90 minutes of highlights on Channel 4 next week.

SNOOKER

England enter two teams

England, the holders, have made a double entry for the Guinness World Cup tournament starting today at the Bournemouth International Centre (Sydney Friskin writes). Steve Davis, Tony Knowles and Tony Meo are in team A; Jimmy White, Willie Thorne and John Spencer in team B.

In pool one are England A, Wales, Scotland and Ireland; in pool two Canada, England B, Australia and the Rest of the World. England A start their title defence this evening with a match against Scotland. In the afternoon Wales will be opposed by Australia.

CYCLING

Sealink race threatened

A dispute over travel costs is clouding preparations for the Sealink international race, due to *start at Rotherham on April 15.*

The six-day event is the last to be sponsored by Sealink, owned until last July by British Rail. Now *owned by James Sherwood, an* American businessman, Sealink have told the organizer, John Burns, *that he will have to be responsible* for the teams' travel costs.

Mr Burns has told the sponsors he expects them to honour the *arrangement of previous years,* providing rail tickets for the 170 competitors to and from the race.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup
Quarter-finals, second leg
(First leg score in brackets)
Liverpool (1) v Austria Vienna (1)
Sparta Prague (0) v Juventus (3) (3.30)
Dnepropetrousk (1) v Bordeaux (1) (postponed until tomorrow)
Panathinaikos (1) v Göteborg (0) (6.0)

European Cup Winners' Cup
Quarter-finals, second leg
(First leg score in brackets)
Fortuna Sittard (0) v Everton (3) (6.30)
Dynamo Moscow (0) v Larissa (0) (4.0)
AS Roma (0) v Bayern Munich (2) (2.0)
Rapid Vienna (0) v Dynamo Dresden (3) (6.30)

UEFA Cup
Quarter-finals, second leg
(First leg score in brackets)
Videoton (0) v Manchester Utd (1) (4.0)
Real Madrid (1) v Tottenham (0) (8.0)
Cologne (0) v Internazionale (1) (7.0)
Dynamo Minsk (0) v Zeljeznicar (2) (4.0)

First division
Newcastle v Leicester
Nottm Forest v Sheffield Wed

Third division
Newport v York

Fourth division
Hereford v Chesterfield

Scottish premier division
Celtic v Hearts

Scottish first division
Motherwell v Airdrie

Scottish second division
Stenhousemuir v Berwick
Stranraer v Queen's Park

GOLA LEAGUE: Boston Utd v Telford Utd, Gateshead v Barrow, Maidstone v Nuneaton.
BOB LORD TROPHY: Third round: Kettering v Altrincham.
NUNEATON PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Grantham v Goole.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Oswestry v Witton Albion.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Alvechurch v Willenhall, RS Southampton v Cheltenham, Shelshed v Welling Utd. Midland division: Oldbury v Moor Green, Sutton Coldfield v Hednesford, VS Rugby v Stourbridge. Southern division: Addlestone v Ashford, Cambridge City v Dunstable (at Dunstable), Dover v Hillingdon.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Chesham v Met Police. Second division, north: Tring v Heybridge Swifts. Second division, south: Newbury v Southall.
EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Stowmarket v Gorleston, Sudbury v Histon
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Collier Row v Redhill
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FA XI v AFA (at Sutton Utd).

CENTRAL LEAGUE: *First division:* Aston Villa v Notts Co (7.0), Blackburn v Derby (7.0), Coventry v Barnsley (7.0). *Second division:* Grimsby v Bolton (7.0), Port Vale v Preston (7.0), *Wigan v Hull City*
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers v Swindon (2.0), *Millwall* v Reading (2.0).
WALLSPAN KO CUP: Second round: Oxford City v Cambridge United.
ARMY (UK) CHALLENGE CUP: Final: School of Signals (Blandford) v Battalion, The King's Regiment (Chester) (at The Military Stadium, Aldershot).
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: *Moreton Town v Bicester Town.*
SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Three Bridges v Eastbourne Town, Wick v Whitehawk.
COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Fleet Town v Cove

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Abertillery v Penarth (7.0); Cardiff v Maesteg (7.15); Cross Keys v Glamorgan Wdrs (7.0); Ebbw Vale v *Newbridge* (7.0); Leicester v Royal Navy (7.15); Pontypridd v Sth Glam Inst (7.0); Swansea v Sth Wales Police (7.0).
REPRESENTATIVES MATCH: British Polytechnics v UAU (Headingley, 7.15).
COUNTY U-21 MATCH: Devon v Somerset (at Tiverton FC, 7.15).
BASS MERIT TABLE: Avon and Somerset Police v Exeter University.
DEVON MERIT TABLE A: Brixham v Paignton.

RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION: Castleford v Leeds; Leigh v Oldham; Warrington v Featherstone; Widnes v *Bradford.*
SECOND DIVISION: Bramley v Whitehaven; Rochdale Hornets v Fulham (7.45); Wakefield Trinity v Mansfield Marksmen.

HOCKEY

INTER-SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Women's tournament Officer' Club Ground, Aldershot, 2.0
ARMY TOURNAMENT: Major and minor units, UK finals (at Abbey Ground, Colchester, 10.30 am).

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Play-off decider: Cottrills Manchester Giants v Walkers Crisps Leicester (at George Carnall Sports Centre, Urmston, 8.0).

OTHER SPORT

TABLE TENNIS: *Commonwealth Championships at Isle of Man.*
GOLF: Avia Foursomes (Berkshire).
BOWLS: British Isles indoor championships (Glasgow); Prudential *National* Women's Indoor Championships (Hartlepool).
RACKETS: Celestion Open doubles: (at Queen's Club).
TENNIS: *Tate and Lyle Women's Tournament* (Bramhall).
SNOOKER: *Guinness World Cup* (Bournemouth)
SPEEDWAY: *Challenge:* Wimbledon v Eastbourne (7.45).

FOOTBALL

Rummenigge has a matter of pride to settle in Cologne

Reuter – Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, who spearheads Internazionale's challenge in the UEFA Cup quarter-final second leg at Cologne today, has a personal score to settle with the home side's Peirre Littbarski, the winger who is trying to take his place in the West German national team.

Inter won the first leg in Milan 1-0 and the outcome of the tie may depend on the individual perormances of the two forwards, both named yesterday in the squad for next week's World Cup match with Malta.

After two years in the wilderness, Littbarski is again showing the skills he exhibited at the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain. Recalled to the national team to face Portugal in Lisbon last month because Rummenigge had influenza, Littbarski scored in a 2-1 World Cup win.

His display prompted many critics to wonder whether Rummenigge, whose form has been disappointing in many recent games for West Germany, was really needed any more. Littbarski has suggested Rummenigge had no special right to a place just because he was national team captain.

With five successive defeats and no goals in more than 400 minutes, Cologne bdly need the striking power of the little winger, who has missed most of those games through suspension. However, Cologne feel they have tthe man to mark Rummenigge in thrugged Dieter Prestin, who has marked him 10 times before and restricted him to only one goal.

Wet snow followed by rain threatens to turn today's European Cup quarter-final second leg between Sparta Prague and Juventus into a mud bath, rather than the showpiece the sell-out crowd expected. Groundsmen are working non-stop on the pitch at Prague's Letna Stadium.

But Juventus, who come to Prague with a 3-0 lead from the first leg, are still confident of plouging their way to the semi-finals. "True, I'm worried about the pitch," their manager, Gianpietro Trappatoni, said. "But a great team like Juventus should not go down 4-0 even under conditions such as these."

The quarter-final between Panathinaikos and Goteborg in Greece is finely balanced. Although the Greeks hold a lead through one controversial goal, the Swedes, winners of the UEFA Cup in 1982, are capable of going through.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, Dynamo Dresden defend a three-goal lead away to Rapid Vienna while Bayern Munich travel to Roma with a two-goal advantage. Both should return with semi-final places, although Roma may stretch the West Germans to their limits. Dynamo Moscow appear to face an easy task in beating Larissa at home after a 0-0 draw in Greece.

Stainrod is in line for debut

Simon Stainrod could return to the first division stage tonight after a month of waiting in the wings. The former Queen's Park Rangers forward signed for Sheffield Wednesday last month for a club record £260,000 fee but is still waiting to make his debut.

With Wednesday's chances of European football next season slipping away, Stainrod could be thrown in for the visit to Nottingham Forest. Wednesday's manager, Howard Wilkinson, whose side have picked up just one win in their last 10 league and cup games, said: "He's been working hard since he came here and has lost between 10 and 12 pounds."

● Asa Hartford is having intensive treatment on a calf strain in an effort to be fit for the Milk Cup final against Sunderland on Sunday. Hartford was injured when Norwich played Sunderland in the league last weekend. His team colleague Steve Bruce, who has an ankle injury, also missed training yesterday.

● Andy Feeley, the Leicester City defender, was sent home from training yesterday with a throat infection and, like Andy Peake and Paul Ramsey, who are both injured, may miss the first division match at Newcastle United tonight.

Stainrod: slimmer

● Derby County are to ban alcohol sales at the Baseball Ground on April 3 for the third divison game against Millwall. The decison was taken after a special meeting with police. Derby will also have closed-circuit television cameras trained on the terraces and will confine all Millwall fans to one specially segregated area.

● Grimsby Town's players have been sent home until Friday because of a flu virus which had caused the postponement of its second division game at Barnsley

Brentwood's sole defeat

Schools football by George Chesterton

Most Headmasters' Conference schools break up for the Easter holidays at the end of this week after a term in which many programmes have been disrupted by the severe weather. Christ's Hospital were outclassed by Hampton GS and lost narrowly to Westminster and Charterhouse, but they gaind a notable win over Brentwld, by 3-0. French scored two of his 10 goals in this match, which was Brentwood's only defeat in a season when Herbert, Wood and Newman have provided a solid defence.

Chigwell, like Brentwood, played in both winter terms and have continued their excellent run beating Westminster, Haileybury, City of London and UCS; indeed, they have been unbeaten by schools in 28 games. Bryce has been outstanding for them.

Harrow also have enjoyed success in their Lent term matches and have conceded only six goals in 22 matches, with 55 to their credit over three seasons. Their propects are good with eight of this year's XI being available next January.

Hailbury have a young side with Huggett and Vnning being sound in defence. Their best match was with Brentwood, which they lost 3-2 having been two up earlier in the game

In the West Country, Rashid and March formed a strong midfield for Clifton. They lost only to Millfield and registered good wins against Sherborne and Downside. Rugby finished on a winning note with a 3-1 victory over Bedford. Wellington drew their last match in a season of mixed fortunes: their captain, Sivarajah, four years in the XI, will be much missed.

Lincoln City appoint new chairman

Lincoln City have named John Reames, a 43-year-old seed merchant, as their new chairman following the resignation this week of Dennis Houlston. Reames has been on the board at Sincil Bank for the past two years.

● The Crewe Alexandra manager, Dario Gradi, has been awarded a new four-year contract in recognition of his work at the fourth division club. Since taking over 18 months ago, he has introduced a youth policy at Crewe and last year was appointed managing director.

● Alan Walsh, the Bristol City forward took his season's tally to 21 by scoring both goals in the 2-1 win over Port Vale in the Freight Rover Trophy second round on Monday night. Walsh's winner was a 78th-minute penalty.

Rummenigge returns for Maltese match

Bonn (Reuter) – Franz Beckenbauer, the manager of West Germany, kept faith with the depleted side that beat Portugal 2-1 in Lisbon last month when he named his 19-man squad for next Wednesday's World Cup qualifying match against Malta in Saarbrucken yesterday.

An outbreak of influenza deprived the team of the services of Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the captain, Karl-Heinz Forster and the 18-year-old midfield player, Olaf Thon. But all three are back in the squad to face the Maltese as are Klaus Allofs and Andreas Brehme, who missed the Portugal game through injury and suspension respectively.

West Germany have won all three World Cup qualifying games so far, but are unlikely to be complacent, after their struggle to beat Malta 3-2 in Valletta last December.

SQUAD: H Schumacher, U Stein, T Berthold, A Brehme, H-P Bregel, K Forster, M Frontzeck, M Herget, D Jakobs; R Falkenmayer, F Magath, L Matthus, U Rahn, O Thon, K Allofs, P Littbarski, E Mill, K-H Rummenigge, R Voller

● Helmut Benthaus, who lef VfB Stuttgart to the West German championship in his first season with them, has re-joined the Swiss first division club, Basle. The two-year contract is for the newly-created post of technical director, which combines the jobs of general manager and manager.

Benthaus, who joined Stuttgart in 1982 after steering Basle to seven league titles and two national cups in a 17-year spell, guided the West German club to their first championship in 32 years. He said last week that he did not forsee any further success with the current team and would not renew his contract.

● Feyenoord, of Rotterdam, have revealed that Johan Cruyff, the former Dutch international, is interested in joining the first division club as its technical director.

Monday's results

Freight Rover Trophy Second round

BRISTOL C (1) 2 Walsh (2, 1pen) 3 635 — PORT VALE (1) 1 Brown

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 1, Derby County 0; West Bromwich Albion 1, Blackburn Rovers 3. Second division: Leicester City 1, Burnley 0; Wolverhampton Wanderers 2, York City 6.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Chelsea 0, Portsmouth 1.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Mossley 1, Bangor City 0.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford 1, Welling 1; Fareham 3. Folkestone and Shepway 1 Midland division: Hednesford 1, Oldbury 0, Leicester United 2, Banbury 1 Southern division: Poole 3, Andover 1; Waterlooville 1, Woodford 1

SERVOWARM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Croydon 2, Barking 0; Hayes 0, Harlow 3

MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP: Quarter-final replay: Feltham 2, Staines 1

FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Millwall 0, Barnsley 2.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Hounslow 1, Hellenic League 2.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Cheltenham 3, Gloucester 25

TOUR MATCH: West London Institute 35, Keio University 14.

CRICKET

Bothamgets reprimand butretains captaincy

By Richard Streeton

Somerset conducted their own investigation into Ian Botham's recent conviction for possessing cannabis before re-appointing him captain for 1985 after a lengthy meeting in Taunton on Monday night. Mr Colin Atkinson, the club's president, said Botham had been severely reprimanded and warned he would lose the captaincy immediately if he was involved in any future incident which brought cricket into disrepute, whether it involved drugs or not.

"The committee have made it absolutely clear to Mr Botham that if his unwise and brief experiment with cannabis some three years ago had taken place during his term as captain, he would not have been re-appointed", Mr Atkinson said in a prepared statement.

Botham, aged 29, who has won 73 England caps, also issued a prepared statement in which he expressed his regret at being involved with cannabis. He said: "I am very sorry for all the trouble I have caused and I am totally opposed to the use of drugs by any sportsman, and realize, I have a responsibility as captain of Somerset to set the highest standards for young cricketers to follow."

Botham's re-appointment followed a joint meeting of the Somerset management and cricket committees, which lasted more than two hours and a half, far longer than expected. Last week the Test and County Cricket Board's executive committee cleared Botham for England selection against Australia this summer. They also issued a condemnatory statement about drug offences.

Both Somerset and the TCCB in taking their decisions, have been conscious of the legal pitfalls in punishing further a man already dealt with by the courts. To have banned Botham from Tests, or to have stripped him of the Somerset captaincy, would have cost Botham large sums in match and endorsement fees and other income. The TCCB's legal advisers are currently drawing up suitable disciplinary clauses to protect themselves in future playing contracts.

The Somerset committee men faced the additional problem that Botham might have left the county staff if deprived of the captaincy. This was the last thing Somerset would have wanted, even if their membership remains sharply divided on the Botham issue. Magistrates, schoolteachers and one or two cricket sponsors were among those gravely concerned about him remaining as captain.

Somerset's investigation was undoubtedly thorough but, in the existing circumstances, it comes as no surprise that Botham has kept the captaincy. Test calls meant that Botham played in only 11 of Somerset's 24 county championship games last summer. But, when available, he led Somerset well and has retained the backing of the players, including the West Indians, Vivian Richards and Joel Garner.

Most of the problems for Botham arising from his drugs conviction are now behind him, therefore. He has finished playing football for Yeovil Town this winter and leaves next weekend in charge of Somerset's pre-season visit to Barbados. After missing England's winter tour in India and Australia, in order to rest from cricket, Botham has every incentive to start the season in his best form in order to reclaim his place in the England side.

Marshall and Gomes out

St John's, Antigua (Reuter) – Viv Richards aims to mark his home debut as the newly-appointed West Indies captain with victory over New Zealand in today's first of five one-day cricket international matches. Richards will be without the injured Marshalls and Gomes, but expects his team to have the reserves to win, despite their recent tiring tour of Australia.

WEST INDIES: V Richards (captain), G Greenidge, D Haynes, R Richardson, R Harper, G Logie, J Dujon, E Baptiste, M Holding, J Garner, W Davis

NEW ZEALAND (from): G Howarth (captain), J Coney, S Boock, J Bracewell, L Cairns, E Chatfield, M Crowe, J Crowe, R Hadlee, R Hart, K Rutherford, I Smith, D Stirling, G Troup, J Wright.

GOLF

All wrapped up: Sharen Cousins keeping a cool head yesterday (Photograph: Frank Baron).

Way is less smooth after turn

By Mitchell Platts

Nicola Way, who first swung a club only two years ago, came close to leading the Avia Watches Foursomes Championship with her partner, Karen Mitchell, at the Berkshire yesterday.

Mr Way, the 16-year-old sister of the Ryder Cup golfer, Paul, and Miss Mitchell, the English schools champion, who is also 16, collected two birdies in their first five holes in a fine start amid snow flurries on the Blue Course. But they were compelled to settle for a 77 so that Angela Uzielli and Elizabeth Boatman, whose combined age is 85, moved ahead with a 74, one over par.

Miss Way stressed that she rarely plays truant but she has been granted time off this week by Hugh Christie School, Tonbridge. "The school has been very fair to me because they allow me to use part of the hockey field as a practice ground", she said. "Paul has been an inspiration but Paul Foston, a professional, who taught my brother, has provided the lessons to help me get down to a four handicap in two years".

Miss Way's ambition is to obtain a golfing scholarship to an American college but her immediate priority is to maintain her challenge with Miss Mitchell to become the youngest winners of the Avia title since it was started in 1966.

The manner in which Miss Way punched a nine iron at the short fifth to six feet, from where Miss Mitchell holed for their second successive birdie, suggested that they might be capable of turning that dream into reality. But they were no match for Mrs Uzielli and Mrs Boatman on the homeward nine as the eventual leaders extracted four birdies which included holing from 20 feet on the last two greens.

Vicki Thomas, who won the Roehampton Golf Cup last Friday, partnered her sister, Mandy Rawlings, to a 75.

FIRST ROUND: Leading scores: 74: A Uzielli (Berks) and E Boatman (Colchester) 75: C Caldwell (Sunningdale) and L Simpson (Truro), V Thomas (Pennard) and M Rawlings (Bargoed) 76: L Bayman (Berks) and M Garner (Portstewart), C Swallow (Howley Hall) and S Duhig (Gillingham. 77: K Mitchell (Worthing) and N Way (Nevill), C Griffiths (Cotswold Hills) and A Secrett (Pycombe); J Walter (St Ives) and C Bailey (Tandridge). 78: W Wooldridge (Wentworth) and S Prosser (Burhill); M McKenna (Donabate) and B Robertson (Dunaverty); J Thornhill (Walton Heath) and J Nicholson (Worplesdon) 79: P Huntley and L King (Fritford Heath). 80: P Pink (Lee-on-Solent) and C Stirling (Meon Valley); C Waite (Swindon) and C Hourihane (Woodbrook).

England and Scotland are among the eight teams seeded in the million-dollar Dunhill Cup at St Andrews from October 17 to 20, along with Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Spain and the United States. Wales take part in the European qualifying tournament near Venice from April 12 to 14.

TENNIS

Three players with one target in mind

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Rotterdam

Pat Cash, Vitas Gerulaitis and Tomas Smid came here this week on a mission only one could fulfil. By winning the tournament – nothing less would do – one of them could replace Tim Mayotte in the 12-man draw for the World Championship Tennis showpiece tournament at Dallas from April 9 to 14.

Smid beat Heinz Gunthardt on Monday to earn a match with Stuart Bale or Guy Forget. Cash, aged 19, had a 6–1, 7–5 win yesterday over another Australian, Kim Warwick, aged 32, who came within a point of winning the second set. The early disparity between them was a reminder that Cash reached the semi-finals of last year's Wimbledon and United States championships, whereas Warwick's peaks – an Australian final and a US quarter-final – are receding into history. Cash must now play Huub van Boeckel, the second best player in the Netherlands.

Gerulaitis, aged 30, was once champion of Australia and has also been runner-up for the French and US titles. Nowadays he is struggling to stay close to the heights. Yesterday afternoon Gerulaitis emerged from an extended nap to admit he "would like to make Dallas", where he has been a familiar and exciting contender.

But his first opponent here was intimidating: the hefty Boris Becker, aged 17, who made his mark in January by winning tournaments at

There are players here who compete in more tournaments than they want to. Grand prix rules insist on it. Mats Wilander, who has never won a tournament on the Supreme surface installed here, suggested yesterday that players should be free to restrict their programmes to those events that inspire maximum concentration. That seems reasonable. Wilander, incidentally, is overwhelmed by apathy at the prospect of returning to Chile for a Davis Cup tie that has been deferred because of earthquakes.

This evening Wilander will play John Lloyd, one of four men working with Bob Brett, an Australian coach. The others are Bale, Paul McNamee, and Tom Cain. One assumes that in the case of Bale, the player is temporarily benefiting more than the coach. But Bale earned about £1,930 by qualifying for this grand prix event – his second such invasion of the elite – and Brett said yesterday that he was impressed by Bale's talent, his willingness to work, and his ability to "fit in".

The tournament is being played within a cycle racing track at the Ahoy Sports Palace. Wordsmiths should note that *hoy* is an old Dutch word for small vessels working over short distances. Thus "Ahoy there!" What an education the tennis circuit can be.

FIRST ROUND: R Krishnan (India) bt Z Kuharszky (Hun) 0-6, 7-6, 6-2; J Nystrom (Swe) bt S Meister (US) 6-0, 6-1; T Smid (CZ) bt H Guenthardt (Switz) 6-1, 7-6.

OLYMPIC GAMES.

Cities asked to apply for Games

The British Olympic Association yesterday invited major cities to apply to stage the 1992 Games. The way is now open for London Manchester and Birmingham to seriously consider making a move. Support was promised at a meeting of the association's National Olympic Committe.

Charles Palmer, the BOA chairman, said he believed Britain could stage the Games successfully, but he warned that the time was running out for applications to be made.

Mr Palmer announced after the meeting: "The committee resolved to encourage and assist any city in Britain considering making a viable bid to stage the 1992 Games. Before finally endorsing a bid to be placed before the International Olympic Committee, the BOA would need to be satisfied of the suitability of facilities and to have clear indications of the support of local and central government.

"We cannot make a bid. It has to come from a particular city. We understand that Manchester and Birmingham have already expressed a strong interest and there is also an indication of goverament support

"There are major problems. The biggest one is the lack of a suitable Olympic village. There is a shortage of suitable indoor facilities also evident. But it can be done."

British cities would have to notify the IOC of their intentions by May 15 this year, and definite proposals have to be in by March 1986.

RUGBY UNION

Challenging agenda confronts board

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The International Rugby Football Board that much maligned and frequently misunderstood body, begin their annual meeting in Paris today. They face an unusually challenging programme, not the least part of which is the possibility of establishing an acknowledged world-wide authority for the game.

They are the logical body to do so, and if they do not then the chances are that a series of power bases will spring up in different parts of the world, organizing the game in the way that happens to suit them and their local conditions. The excuse (as if one were needed) for a permanent authority may be the World Cup feasibility study which Australia and New Zealand are putting forward for the board's consideration.

The two countries are eager to stage such a competition in 1987, even though they are aware that no true World Cup can be contemplated if South Africa are not there. This does not necessarily mean that South Africa will vote against the principle: they would merely like to have as much say in the discussion as any of their partners on the board.

South Africa will also take great interest in the proposals to "depower" the scrum. The Australian Rugby Union have introduced legislation designed to make the scrum safer for schoolboys, and intend to recommend some of it at senior level. New Zealand go further. They seek to prevent the scrum from moving more than a metre in any direction, to eliminate the wheel, the pushover try and the pick-up by the No 8. England, broadly speaking, go along with the Australian proposals where schoolboy safety is concerned, and every senior front row forward I have spoken to applauds the introduction of measures which may prevent neck or back injuries to youngsters.

However, there is great concern at the possibility of reducing a senior scrum ot something akin to a Rugby League scrum. In Rugby Union the scrum is one of the most traditional and valued features of the game, involving considerable unit skills. To reduce its importance is to pave the way for eight individuals of similar physical stature leaning against each other until the backs have the ball in their hands once more, thus bidding farewell to the variety of physical specimens involved in the game at its upper levels.

The board will also find France, the host country for the first time since their admission to the board in 1978 (though not occupying the chair), pressing for a differential penalty. Three years ago Wales failed to get the value of the penalty reduced from three points to two, but this year France have proposed retaining the three-point penalty for dangerous or foul play. They offer as an alternative a two-point penalty for offences of a technical nature, no doubt mindful of how consistently their national side have been penalized in this year's championship alone.

There will be discussion,too, of refereeing standards. Dánie Craven, president of the South African Rugby Board, makes the point that referees would be in difficulty if, for example, at a World Cup tournament they were being constantly vilified by team officials. The machinery exists to filter out poor officials; perhaps it needs only a little oiling.

Bonneval to face Wales

Eric Bonneval, a try scorer on his debut for France against New Zealand in Auckland last summer, will make his first appearance in the five nations championship when he plays against Wales in Paris on March 30 (David Hands writes). Though normally a centre for his club Toulouse, he replaces Pardo on the right wing.

This has been a problem position for France all season in the absence of the injured Lagisquet. Neither Estève, who moved back to the left, nor Pardo proved satisfactory so Bonneval, aged 20, earns his second cap. The other change to the team which drew with Ireland is at lock, where Lorieux, of Grenoble, replaces Hagnet.

The Welsh team wil be selected after this weekend Schweppes Welsh Cup semi-finals.

Lorieux: called up

FRANCE: S Blanco (Biarritz), E Bonneval (Stade Toulousain), P Sella (Agen), D Codorniou (Narbonne), P Estève (Narbonne), P Dospital (Bayonne), P Dintrans (Tarbes, capt), J-P Garuet (Lourdes), J Gratton (Agen), A Lorieux (Grenoble), J Condom (Boucau), J-L Joinel (Brive), L Rodriguez (Mont-de-Marsan). Replacements: C Rizon (Montferrand), P-E Detrez (Nimes), J-C Orso (Nice), Berbizier (Lourdes), L Pardo (Montferrand), G Laporte (Graulhet).

IN BRIEF

Heartbreak hotel for Ward and his men

Chris Ward, the former British Isles bowls champion, and his team for North Walsham, Norfolk, were eliminated from the Prudential national indoor championships in Hartlepool yesterday because they were out looking for a hotel to stay in for a further night when they should have been playing their semi-final.

Earlier in the day they had beaten Cumbria, who were skipped by John Bell, a gold medal winner at last year's world outdoor championships, and they were due to meet Hartlepool at 2.30pm. Ward said: "Through our stupidity, we had to concede. One of our players said we were not on until six o'clock and I did not check."

SPEEDWAY: A record £50,000 sponsorship deal for the sport was announced in London yesterday. Sunbrite Smokeless Fuel are to back the world individual championship final at Bradford's redeveloped Odsal Stadium on August 31.

The company, part of the National Coal Board, is also sponsoring three other international meetings this summer at the stadium, where local and county councils have spent £1.5 million.

TABLE TENNIS: Karen Witt was criticized for "lack of effort" by George Yates, deputy chairman of the England Table Tennis Association, as England struggled through to the women's team final of the Commonwealth championships in the Isle of Mann yesterday by beating India 3-2.

BASKETBALL: With next year's World Championships in mind, the England coach Bill Beswick will experiment in the British Championsips next month. He has omitted four key players, Clark, Spaid and the Lloyd brothers and brought in Irish and Stiller for their first caps.

ENGLAND (v Wales at Cardiff, April 6): K Tatham (Birmingham), M Griffiths (Solent), S O'Shea (Leicester), A Balogun, (Hemel/Watford), C Irish (Manchester United) D Gardner (Manchester Giants), P Mullings (Sunderland), M Bett (Crystal Palace), P James (Leicester), K Nottage (Sunderland). For the games against N Ireland on April 8 and Scotland on April 10 J Moore (Unatt), S Stiller (Bracknell) and P Simpson (Crystal Palace) will be added.

CRICKET: Queensland just failed to win their first Sheffield Sheild title when they were beaten by one wicket by New South Wales in the final yesterday at Sydney. Carl Rackemann looked like denying New South Wales their 38th shield championship after they had been set 220 to win, bowling for much of the innings to finish with six for 54, but the winning boundary by last man Dave Gilbert was scored off him.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Fulham move to Chiswick for one game

Fulham are to play next Sunday's second division match with Runcorn Highfield at the Polytechnic ground, Chiswick.

Fixtures so far this season have been played at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, but games there have been dropping to a few hundred. The club hope that the move back to west London – the Chiswick site is three miles from their former ground at Craven Cottage – will bring back some of the support that has deserted them since their opening season of 1980-81, when they averaged over 6,000.

Roy Close, whose wife Barbara is chairman of the club, said it was a one-off decision. Fulham had an agreement with Crystal Palace until the end of the season.

Leeds go for a treble

By Keith Macklin

After only two years in existence, the Leicester Polytechnic team have reached the final of the British Polytechnic Students' Cup final They will meet Leeds Polytechnic at Crown Flatt, the home of Dewsbury RLFC this afternoon (2.30). Leeds will be looking for their third successive win.

The management committee meets in Leeds today, and one of the items on the agenda is the question of a possible extension to the season. This has been ruled out at previous meetings, but several clubs with heavy backlogs of fixtures due to bad weather and cup ties are pressing for a short extension.

Wigan will today name their squad for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi final against Hull Kingston Rovers at Headingley on Saturday. A surprise inclusion could be the powerful South African winger, Nick du Toit, who turned out for Wigan last Sunday against Workington and scored a try.

FOR THE RECORD

SKIING

La Clusaz, France: World Cup freestyle: Men: Ballet: 1, H Reitberger (WG) 27.8, 2, G Furmeier (WG) 26.0; 3, J Du Mame (Can) 25.4. British placings: 9, M Nemesvary 24.4, 13, R Wallace 23.2. Moguls, Men: 1, S Desovich (US) 2, P Bron (Fr) 3, E Laboureix (Fr) British placings: 29, M Nemesvary; 41, C Morrison. Women's Ballet: 1, C Rossi (Fr) 26.9, 2, J Bucher (US) 26.3, 3, C Kissling (Switz) 25.18. British placing: 10, J Snell, 18.6. Moguls, women: 1, H Wolff (US), 2, S Merchandi (It), 3, L L Morrison (Can): British placing: 20, J Curry

RIFLE SHOOTING

BISLEY: Muzzle loaders association of Great Britain National 300 yards meeting. Capper Cup: 1 B Oakley (Portsmouth) 46 (new record), 2, R C Nash (Coventry) 44, 3, D Hedge (Coventry) 42.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Celestion Open Doubles: Second Round: [illegible]

FOOTBALL

AFRICAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Second round, second leg: [illegible]

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Queen's Park Rangers 2, Charlton 1.

WORLD CUP: Asian group 1, sub group B: (in Kuwait): Iraq 6, Lebanon 0 Group 3 (in Jakarta): Indonesia 2, Bangladesh 0; (in Kathmandu) Nepal 0, Malaysia 0 South American group 2: Chile 6, Ecuador 2

LIBERTADORES CUP: Group 2: (in Caracas): Blooming (Bol) 3, Italia (Ven) 0 (in San Cristobal): Tachira (Ven) 1, Oriente Petroleros (Bol) 1.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Ayr Bruins 7, Durham Wasps 3, Cleveland Bombers [illegible]

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: [illegible]

UNITED STATES: National League (NHL): [illegible]

WALES CONFERENCE

Patrick Division: [illegible]

Adams Division: [illegible]

CAMPBELL CONFERENCE

Norris Division: [illegible]

Smythe Division: [illegible]

* qualified for play-offs

TABLE TENNIS

DOUGLAS: Commonwealth championships: Teams, men, Group A: Trinidad bt Zimbabwe 5-0, Hong Kong bt India 5-3. Group B: England bt Australia 5-0 (D Douglas bt R Javor 21-15, 21-12, C Prean bt R Tuckett 21-11, 21-8, A Cooke bt Haberl 21-12, 21-18). Northern Ireland bt Papua New Guinea 5-0 (M Kelly bt P Robinson 21-14, 21-10; H Menesly bt B Callister 21-17, 21-18, D Weir bt J Andrew 21-10, 21-7, Kelly bt Callister 21-11, 21-11, Weir bt Robinson 21-12, 21-16) Wales [illegible]

LACROSSE

MERTON: [illegible]

GOLF

MAUI: Hawaiian Open: Final scores: [illegible]

REAL TENNIS

PETWORTH: [illegible]

BOWLS

HARTEPOOL: Prudential national indoor championships: [illegible]

BOXING

TAMPA, Florida: [illegible]

ROWING

PUTNEY: Schools Head of the River (Chiswick Eyot to Putney) Eights: 1 Hampton, 7:41.9, 2 Eton, 7:49.5, 3, Shrewsbury, 7:50.0; 4, St Edward's, 7:50.6, 5, Shiplake 7:53.1, 6, Tiffin 7:56.1, 7, St George's 7:56.4; 8, Kingston GS 7:58.2; 9, Abingdon 7:58.3; 10, Bryanston, 7:59.7; 11, King's Canterbury, 8:06.0; 12 Bedford 8:1.2, 13 King James's, 8:1.3, 14, St Edwards's B, 8:1.5, 15, Shrewsbury B, 8:1.7; 16, Abingdon B, 8:2.4, 17, St Ingnatius (Galway), 8:2.5, 18, Hampton B, 8:4.7; 19, [illegible]

TENNIS

BRAMHALL: Tate and Lyle cane sugar women's tournament: Third round (all GB): A Hobbs bt K Rickett 6-2, 6-1, J Griffiths bt J Wood, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5, B Borneo bt L Beeves, 6-3, 6-4, C Wood bt L Ristic, 7-5, 7-5, J Holden bt C Billingham, 6-2, 6-3, J Louis bt L Gould, 6-4, 6-1, S Sullivan bt S Nicholson, 6-1, 6-7, 6-1, S Gomer bt A Hill, 6-3, 6-2. QUARTER-FINALS: A Hobbs bt J Griffiths 7-6, 7-6; C Wood bt B Borneo 6-3, 6-3, J Louis bt J Holden 6-2, 6-3, S Gomer bt S Sullivan 7-5, 6-3

NANCY, France: Open tournament: First round: [illegible]

NEW YORK: [illegible]

CRICKET

SYDNEY: Sheffield Shield, final: Queensland 374 and 163, New South Wales 318 and 223 for 9 (P Clifford 83 no; C Rackemann 6-54). NSW won by 1 wkt.

BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Association (NBA): [illegible]

ATHLETICS

MANCHESTER: [illegible]

ROWING: Hampton School won the Schools Head of the River race yesterday over the two-mile course from Chiswick Eyot to Putney (Jim Railton writes). On a bitterly cold day, Hampton, starting in seventh place in the procession, finished almost eight seconds ahead of Eton who finished second. The Head crew, St Edward's, were deposed and finished in fourth place.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Oliver Dolan, the oldest surviving Rugby League Lion, died yesterday aged 91. Dolan, a hooker, was a member of the Great Britain touring party to Australia in 1928 and played all his career with St Helens Recs.

GOLF

Desert gold can pave Lyle's way to tour

From John Ballantine
Las Vegas

Sandy Lyle, who needs to win a lot more dollars very quickly if he is to achieve his ambition this spring of gaining his United States tour card, tees off here today rather like a prospector in the nearby Superstition Mountains starting a long trek in search of the Lost Dutchman's gold mine.

One million dollars confronts the eager Scot in the Panasonic Invitational tournament a five-day 90 hole, event loosely based upon the successful format of the Bob Hope Desert Classic. Lyle has now played seven of his limit of 10 sponsor's invitation events and has won $18,881 (£18,000) to date: he probably needs to win $45,000.

Here, 576 amateurs will play alongside 144 professionals on the Las Vegas, Desert Inn and Tropicana courses for the first three days. On Friday, after 54 holes, the field will be cut to 70 and they, with the leading 25 amateurs, will play on Saturday before the television cameras with a number of celebrities famous for anything but their golf.

On Sunday, only the professionals will play for some of the biggesst prize money seem outside of Sun City $171,000 to the winner, with even the 22nd places player receiving $10,000 Bernhard Langer, Ken Brown and Peter Oosterhuis joins Lyle in this financial revel.

It is unabashed show business, but the money is a big incentive and, anyway, this is the most celebrated gambling city in the world. Last year Denis Watson won, and this time Tom Watson, Craig Stadler and Mark O'Meara – who, because of his Bing Crosby Classic victory will get a bonus of $250,000 if he wins here – are the favourites.

CURRENT MONEY WINNERS (All US): 1, L Wadkins $197,530; 2, M O'Meara $194,825; 3, C Strange $161,344; 4, C Stadler $136,826; 5, C Peete $107,585; 6, F Zoeller $96,284. OTHERS: 12, S Ballesteros (Sp) $78,504; 14, T Watson (US) $77,725; 50, B Langer (WG) $28,230; 31, N Faldo (GB) $27,533; 64, P Oosterhuis (GB) $21,543; 70, S Lyle (GB) $18,881; 104, K Brown $9,696.

TOUR STATISTICS: Leading scorer: 1, C Stadler (US), 69.16; Longest driver: A Bean (US), 273.4 yds; Most accurate driver: G Littler (US); Best putter: F Zoeller (US) 27.17; Most eagles: S Gardner, C Pavin, L Rinker, D Pooley (all US) tied with six; Most birdies: F Couples, 133

HOCKEY

Ladykillers rely on penalties

By Sydney Friskin

Combined Services 0
Ladykillers 4

Ladykillers included eight international players for the annual match against Combined Services at Vine Lane, Uxbridge, yesterday, and avenged last year's 2-1 defeat.

After 18 minutes, Ladykillers forced their first short corner and a stinging shot from Craig was saved by Pappin, who kicked the ball away almost as fast as it had come in. Another short corner to Ladykillers led to a penalty stroke because of a stick tackle by Gordon, and Peter Miskimmin flicked the ball beyond Pappin to give Ladykillers the lead in the 20th minute.

Combined Services had two chances to score. A shot by Jennings was cleared off the line by Brent Miskimmin while the Ladykillers' defence was in disarray, then a strong shot by Jennings from a short corner was well saved by Owen. Play immediately moved to the other end, where Bhaura broke through and pushed towards an open goal, but Henry, who saved on the line, was penalized for a stick infringement and Peter Miskimmin converted another penalty stroke.

Barrett put the ball in the Services net early in the second half but was ruled offside. He had his compensation later with the third penalty stroke for Ladykillers.

The fourth goal was laid on by Peter Miskimmin, with a fast run down the right wing. He hit across to Bhaura, who drove home a comfortable shot.

COMBINED SERVICES: F/O V Pappin (RAF); Cpl M Luffman (RAF), Sgt I Clinton (RAF, capt), Cpl M Dykes (RAF), PO/Mem B Henry (Royal Navy), Sgt G Bosworth (RAF), Capt C Wood (Army), LAC N Eves (Royal Navy), Lt N Gordon (Army), L/Cpl I Jennings (Army), Lt A Scopes (Army).

LADYKILLERS: D J Owen; R Agar, D Craig, I Thomson (capt), D Faulkner, B Miskimmin, R Brookeman, P Miskimmin, F Martin, K Bhaura, I Barrett.

Umpires: Sgt J Patel RAF), D Burrows (Essex).

BOXING

McGuigan and Pedroza may yet meet

Eusebio Pedroza will watch Barry McGuigan's European title defence next Tuesday at Wembley. The world featherweight champion from Panama is coming with his manager, Santiago del Rio, and McGuigan's manager, Barney Eastwood, hopes to persuade him to return to defend his title against McGuigan this summer.

Eastwood made three fruitless trips to Panama to try to clinch a deal but now, with £100,000 backing from Smirnoff, believes negotiations can continue. McGuigan's camp have accepted that Pedroza will not box in Belfast.

● An appeal court in Bologna acquitted three people on charges connected with the death of an Italian boxer, Angelo Jacopucci, three days after being knocked out by Alan Minter in a 1978 European middleweight title bout. The referee, Raymond Baldeyrou, the ringside doctor, Ezio Pampinelli, and Jacopucci's manager, Rocco Agostino, were acquitted of manslaughter for lack of evidence.

SNOW REPORTS

SCOTLAND: Cairngorm: Upper runs and middle runs complete, new snow on a hard base. Lower slopes complete, new snow. Vertical runs: 1800ft. Hill roads: drifting moderate snow. Main roads: clear. Snow level: 1500ft. Glenshee: Upper runs some complete, hard-packed snow with icy patches. Lower slopes very little or no hard-packed snow with icy patches. Vertical runs: 900ft. Hill roads: clear. Main roads: clear. Snow level: 2000ft. Glencoe (open Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays) upper runs some runs complete, hard-packed new snow on a firm base. Lower slopes limited nursery areas, very little snow. Vertical runs: 900ft. Hill roads and main roads: clear. Snow level 2300ft. Lecht: Upper runs and middle runs complete, hard-packed snow on a firm base. Lower slopes ample nursery areas, hard-packed snow on a firm base. Vertical runs: 700ft. Hill roads and main roads: clear. Snow level, 2000ft.

RACING: PULBOROUGH TRAINER HAS POWERFUL AMMUNITION FOR COLTS' CLASSICS AND PREMIER ALL-AGED RACES

Jonlani fancied to follow up his Doncaster success

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Monica Dickinson, who helped to write a piece of racing history at Cheltenham a week ago when she saddleed Badsworth Boy to become the first horse to win the Queen Mother Champion Chase three times, descends to a lower plain today when she makes a two horse raid on Kelso. While Teenage Love may not beat Joe's Fancy (4.15) I still feel that Mrs Dickinson's skill will be rewarded by **Jonlani** (2.15).

Jonlani, who runs in the first division of the Heiton Novices Hurdle, shaped with considerable promise at Haydock in November even though he finished unplaced behind his stable companion, Rhoecus, the odds-on favourite.

The only time Jonlani has run since was at Doncaster last month when e beat Hopeful Mission, another of Mrs Dickinson's horses, even though the betting again suggested that he wa the less fancied of the two.

Apparently his jumping was a revalation that day and I expect him to prove too good fo Jim Thorpe, who should be all the better for his recent run at Ayr, where he finished fourth to Chipped Metal.

Peaty Sandy, who has won twice at Kelso, can register a third course victory in the King's Own Scottish Borderers Cup (4.45). On his last visit to the course, he was beaten a short head by Right Hand Man, who has since finished second in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

My idea of today's best bet, though, is Kelly's Honor in the third division of the St Barnabas Novices' Chase (3.0) at Worcester. Kelly's Honor was a decisive winner at Huntingdon last month when he completely outpointed the useful Leith Hill Flyer. He is now napped to beat the recent Ayr winner, Scottish Dream, and Chasm.

No matter how Chasm fares, **Ben Lair**, his stable and travelling companion from Upper Lambourn, can help to put a smile on the face of their trainer, Fulke Walwyn, by winning the fourth division, of the novice chase (5.0).

Big Brown Bear (1.0) and **Emmason** (2.0) have done sufficiently well this season to suggest that they are capable of winning the earlier divisions on a day when the sheer number of runners will test race readers and ground staff alike.

Following that encouraging run behind Down Flight at Warwick recently, **Periscope**, from Nick Henderson's in-form stable, looks the one that they all have to beat in the first division of the Pitchcroft Novices' Hurdle (2.30).

Itsgottabealright should prove hard to catch in the Worcestershire County Cricket Club Handicap Chase (4.30), especially if he manages to blaze a trail as he did at Bangor two weeks ago, when he succeeded in getting all his rivals in trouble a very long way from home and won unchallenged.

Course specialists

WORCESTER

TRAINERS: L Kennard 23 winners from 106 runners, 21.7%; J Old 12 from 56, 15.4%.
JOCKEYS: P Scudamore 46 winners from 220 rides, 20.9%; H Davies 26 from 174, 14.9%; S Morshead 22 from 177, 12.4%.

KELSO

TRAINERS: A Scott 21 winners from 84 runners, 25%; K Oliver 12 from 73, 16.4%; W A Stephenson 40 from 268, 14.9%.
JOCKEYS: C Hawkins 19 winners from 88 rides, 21.6%; C Pimlott 18 from 94, 19.1%; P Tuck 15 from 89, 16.9%.

Leadburn (far side) and Crazy stride out on the Pulborough gallops (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Sabona could be Harwood's best

By Michael Seely

Guy Harwood and Greville Starkey were in optimistic mood on the sunny Downs above Pulborough yesterday. "I had no obvious two-year-old star", the trainer said, "but I've got a feeling the Derby winner could come from a hole in the ground this year. Either Sabona, S Hilarion or Phardante could show enough improvement to become live candidates. They've all got better form than many of my previous Epsom runners".

Geoff Lawson, Harwood's brother-in-law and assistant trainer, said: "For my money, Sabona could be the pick of our classic colts. He showed amazing acceleration on the afternoon Greville blew his top and got himself disqualified at Newbury. He had probably had enough for the season and didn't like the soft ground when disappointing behind Lanfranco in the William Hill Futurity".

Sabona's eclipse cost Harwood his chance of winning his first trainers' championship. As it was, he finished second to Henry Cecil, having saddled a total of 93 races in this country worth £472,378. Overseas, Lear Fan won the Prix Jacques le Marois at Deauville and Raft the Prix de la Côte Normande on the same track. Overtrump and Alphabatim also captured valuable trophies in California in the autumn. "Unfortunately, Overtrump broke a leg on the gallops in the States and had to be destroyed," Harwood said.

Harwood's 600 acres of farmland and gallops face southward, looking over the Arun Valley and the wooded South Downs. Once again the trainer's open day for the press was a superb production, and the sight of two-year-olds moving at a swinging canter up the grass slopes gave a foretaste of the thrills to come.

Beresque, a colt by Formidable out of Nettlebed, is considered to be the most forward of the juvenile team. "He could run at the first Kempton meeting," Harwood said. "Primary and Prasina Matia could well be seen in action at the second meeting on that track."

The three-year-olds and older horses were exercised on one of the three all-weather gallops. The strength of the trainer's four-year-old hand became immediately apparent as Raft, Rousillon, Crazy and Leadburn cantered past.

Last season, Raft proved rather disappointing after his convincing Deauville victory. Prince Khaled Abdullah's Nodouble colt finished fifth behind Cormorant Wood in the Benson and Hedges Gold Cup and third in the Champion Stakes.

"I'm going to be training him especially for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot in July," Harwood said. "He's been crying out for a mile and half on fast ground. But last season it was a bit difficult as his owner ran Rainbow Quest in the top races over that distance."

Rousillon, conqueror of Chief Singer at Salisbury in the spring, and the winner of the Waterford Crystal Mile at Goodwood later in the year, is a brilliantly fast miler on his day. "We'll start him off in either the Trust House Forte Mile at Sandown or the Lockinge Stakes. After that, he could go for the Jacques le Marois or the Sussex Stakes."

Young Runaway is the stable's likely runner in the 2,000 Guineas as the trainer bids to repeat his 1981 victory with To-Agori-Mou. Of the three-year-old fillies, he thinks that Graecia Magna, Itsamazing and It's Now Or Never, all have Oaks potential.

Cataldi, who created one of the shocks of the season when finishing a close fourth to Palace Music in the Champion, will be the stable's first runner in Saturday's Lincoln Handicap. "I'm hoping he'll run a good race if he's well drawn," the trainer concluded.

Inquiry into Festival hurdle race

The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee are to inquire int last week's controversial finish to the Waterford Crystal Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham. The race was a triumph for Fulke Walwyn, who saddled the first two home in Rose Ravine, the favourite, and Crimson Embers.

After jumping the last, Rose Ravine veered sharply to the right, almost bumping his stable companion into the rail. Most observers felt that the placings should have been reversed. Both horses are owned by Pam Smart and Walwyn quickly scotched any question of an objection.

Whatever the stewards at Portman Square decide at the inquiry, they cannot alter the placings. "We have been advised that in the absence of any appeal about the decision of the Cheltenham stewards, we have no power to make such alterations", a Jockey Club spokesman said.

Mr Snugfit in fine trial

Mr Snugfit's Grand National odds were cut to 20-1 after yet another impressive win under top weigth in Nottingham's Trent Handicap Chase yesterday, but with 8st 10lb it is touch and go whether he will get into the Aintree line-up.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed and if he runs he will win," his trainer, Mick Easterby said. "We're waiting for eight to drop out," his owner, Adrian Greenwood, added. Mr Greenwood has had a modest National wager on his gelding at 80-1.

Mr Snugfit could not have run a better trial. Phil Tuck jumped him to the front past Hill Of Slane at the second last fence and the 5-4 favourite stayed on stoutly to hold the renewed challenge of Personality Plus by 1½ lengths.

Hill Of Slane weakened on the run-in to finish seven lengths further back in third. The nine-year-old finished eleventh in the National last year and will again be in the line-up, ridden by Steve Smith Eccles.

Today's point-to-point

Cambridgeshire: Horseheath, near Linton (12.30).

WORCESTER

GOING: good to soft

1.0 ST BARNABAS NOVICE CHASE (Div I: £1,041: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

2 02211f BIG BROWN BEAR (G Barlow) G Barlow 8-12-0 ..... G Bradley
14 02f022 AWNING (M Henriques) M Henriques 7-11-0 ..... Mr A J Wilson
15 p BALLINGER'S FOLLY (H Jackson) H Jackson 7-11-0 ..... –
17 0/00f04- BERGHILL (J Heath) J Heath 8-11-0 ..... Mr J Cambridge 4
18 442014 BOLT THE GATE (D Williams) 8-11-0 ..... B Powell
20 fpfpp4 BRIGADIER ROSE (G Harris) M Stephens 8-11-0 ..... C Mann
32 f/00p CROWMAN (S Mitchell) N Mitchell 7-11-0 ..... –
33 4f-pp00 DAY AFTER (Mrs S James) A James 9-11-0 ..... G Jones
40 0-00032 GOINGO (R Brown) R Brown 5-11-0 ..... R Hyett
57 0pu000 MR PRESIDENT WEAR (B Adshead) C Trietline 8-11-0 ..... K Ross 7
58 00/1214- NO SWEAT (A Whettam) J Old 8-11-0 ..... Mr E Whettam
61 f23pp3 PARISH RIGGED (B) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 7-11-0 ..... H Davies
65 P/p ROBERT HENRY (Mrs P Hargreaves) R Armytage 7-11-0 ..... A Webber
74 p STOUT ANSWER (M Ogle) M Ogle 8-11-0 ..... –
82 043p00 WONKEYS LUCK (J Waldron) Mrs N Kennedy 7-11-0 ..... A Chamberlain 4
88 00pp/0f MISS TULLULAH (Mrs D Chappel) K Bailey 7-10-9 ..... –
92 00000-f WINNING CLOVER (W Logan) R Blakeney 7-10-9 ..... G McCourt

7-4 Big Brown Bear, 7-2 No Sweat, 4 Awning, 5 Parish Rigged, 10 Goingo, 12 Bolt The Gate, 16 others.

FORM: Previous dual winner Big Brown Bear (11-8) a prominent 4th when falling at the last in Jimbrook's (11-8) Wetherby contest (3m ch, £3,817, good to soft, Dec 26, 8 ran). AWNING, (11-1) 12l runner-up to John's Present (11-1) at Warwick (2m ch, £1,414, heavy, Mar 5, 13 ran). BOLT THE GATE, (11-0) 30l 4th to Brown Trix (11-0) at Stratford (2m 6f ch, £2,034, heavy, Mar 7, 14 ran). BRIGADIER ROSE, (11-4) 31½l 4th to Claude Monet (11-4) at Hereford, WINNING CLOVER (10-13) a faller at the 4th (2m 4f ch, £1,839, soft, Mar 2, 15 ran). PARISH RIGGED, (10-11) beaten just under 6l into 3rd by Chelsea Island (10-11) at Sandown (2m ch, £2,111, Mar 9, 8 ran.
Selection: BIG BROWN BEAR

1.30 PORTLAND WALK SELLING HURDLE (Div I: £619: 2m) (16)

2 004-p00 GALTRIM (C) (Ceilings and Interiors) C Jackson 8-11-12 ..... J Burke
15 0000-0u KANO FLOWER (C Lean) A Barrow 6-11-5 ..... R Hoare
19 p- MICROBYTE (H Jackson) H Jackson 6-11-5 ..... –
20 00330-p NICK BARRY (B) (R Piper) J Bosley 8-11-5 ..... Mr M Bosley 7
23 000033 PICKET LINE (J Jardine) W Clay 5-11-5 ..... S J O'Neill
24 00-0 SAUNSON BOY (G Roberts) B McMahon 5-11-5 ..... T Wall
29 b-0u00f WARWICK BLUE (B) (Mrs M Hambro) L Kennard 6-11-5 ..... B Powell
30 pp00-p WINTER SPORT (Miss J Seaborn) Miss J Seaborn 8-11-5 ..... B Powell
31 0 APRIL GEM (P Philips) D Burchell 5-11-0 ..... C Seward
36 001-p00 GOOSE GREEN (Mrs J Bissill) Mrs D Williams 5-11-0 ..... J Bryan
45 p0p DINADEN (D Roderick) D Roderick 4-10-10 ..... C Warren 7
47 022202 ESKER HOUSE (B Willis) D R Tucker 4-10-10 ..... S McNeill
48 0040p0 HIGHVIEW (B) (D Ella) P Bevan 4-10-10 ..... R Hatfield 7
50 pp SPECIAL ENVOY (N Joymer) J Jenkins 4-10-10 ..... –
51 3340 JOAN ADDISON (G Ham) G Ham 4-10-5 ..... N Coleman
52 MAID OF IRELAND (D Wintle) D Wintle 4-10-5 ..... A Carroll

11-4 Picket Line, 4 Esker House, 5 Warwick Blue, 6 Galtrim, 7 Saunson Boy, 8 Joan Addison, 10 Special Envoy, 12 Maid Of Ireland, 16 others.

2.0 ST BARNABAS NOVICE CHASE (Div II: £1,041: 2m 4f) (16)

4 32122p EMMASON (D) (G Barley) J Spearing 10-11-7 ..... S Morshead
8 143002 PEBBLE ISLAND (B) (Mrs R Docchar) G Richards 8-11-7 ..... N Doughty
19 0pp0-p BOY PIPER (D Williams) L Kennard 8-11-0 ..... B Powell
23 0041p0 CALMACUTTER (Mrs V Judd) C James 8-11-0 ..... V McKevitt
25 0p0puf CHALFORD HILL (T Bushell) M Gibson 8-11-0 ..... C Mann
29 CONTRADEAL (V Barclay) F Walwyn 8-11-0 ..... S Shilston
31 114000 COUNTY PLAYER (Mrs Y Sniter) Mrs S Oliver 8-11-0 ..... J Duggan 4
36 000p-f ERICA'S GENERAL (N Brooks) J Brooks 7-11-0 ..... P Leach
42 p00-pu GRANTSTOWN (Mrs C Williams) A Turnell 7-11-0 ..... Steve Knight
43 4-4000p HENRY BELL (Miss A Collass) K Bailey 7-11-0 ..... –
44 0-00400 HOPE END (Mrs Y Allsop) R Brazington 7-11-0 ..... C Jones
62 400-fu4 PETROCELLI (B Whetton) R Juckes 7-11-0 ..... P Carvill
71 000000/ SHINTULLAH (Mrs V Edmunds) N Mitchell 7-11-0 ..... –
75 0/3-0pf0 THISTLEDOWN PATH (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 8-10-0 ..... H Davies
80 24-02p0 TWO EAGLES (G Steinberg) R Armytage 8-11-0 ..... A Webber
84 fp BIG TIME (G Ratcliff) Mrs A Ratcliff 5 10-0 ..... Mr Des Williams 7

9-4 Emmason, 3 Pebble Island, 9-2 The County Palyer, 6 Two Eagles, 8 Contradeal, 10 Calmacutter, 12 Thistledown Path, 16 others.

FORM: EMMASON, hampered and then pulled up last time, earlier (10-3) 5l runner-up to Roadster (10-0) at Cheltenham (2m 4f ch, £3,640, soft, Jan 26, 12 ran). PEBBLE ISLAND, (11-11) ½l 2nd to Numerate (12-4) at Bangor (2m 4f ch, £1,146, good, Mar 6, 14 ran). PETROCELLI, (10-12) 11½l 4th to Backstreet Guy (10-12) at Wolverhampton (3m 1f ch, £1,128, good to soft, Mar 15, 8 ran).
Selection: EMMASON

2.30 PITCHCROFT NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £870: 2m 4f) (25)

2 313 TREYFORD (S Sainsbury) T Forster 5-11-12 ..... H Davies
11 040020 BRYMA (Mrs M Palling) B Palling 5-11-2 ..... A Griffiths
13 0 CO CO MAN (J Wenman) N Tinkler 6-11-2 ..... S Moore
14 pf COURTIERS WAG (Miss E Hill) M Tate 5-11-2 ..... C Smith
15 0004- COYOR (B Chambers) R Blakeney 5-11-2 ..... R Linley
17 200 GOLD WARBLER (G Bourne) M Oliver 5-11-2 ..... R Dunwoody
18 HARD GOLD (H HUTSBY) H Hutsby 6-11-2 ..... Mr C O'Toole 7
19 22 JAMES MY BOY (BF) (Mrs R Dickinson) M Dickinson 5-11-2 ..... J A Harris
21 00 LUMINIST (G Yardley) G Yardley 5-11-2 ..... A Sharpe
22 40303 MAUJENDOR (T Sivter) M Tate 5-11-2 ..... P Scudamore
25 p-000 MUMMYS SWIFT (W Harrison-Allan) T Hallett 6-11-2 ..... B Wright
27 000-0 PENSNETT LAD (G Devonport) Mrs M Rimell 6-11-2 ..... S Morshead
28 002 PERISCOPE (Ld Mostyn) N Henderson 5-11-2 ..... J White
29 p00- PURPLE BLAZE (Mrs C Rickards) J Bradley 7-11-2 ..... G Davies
31 0 SAMSHU (Mrs J Alford) J Thorne 5-11-2 ..... P Dever
33 fp0 SPIDER KELLY (H Lister) G Richards 7-11-2 ..... N Doughty
37 0p ANNIE HOTSPUR (C Smyth) A Chamberlain 7-10-11 ..... A Chamberlain
40 p0 IVY ROYAL (P Bomford) P Bomford 6-10-11 ..... Philip Hobbs
41 p0 LADY WREKIN (A Whiting) D Wintle) 5-10-11 ..... A Carroll
42 0 MIZZIE LIZZIES (M Florey) J Bosley 7-10-11 ..... Mr M Bosley 7
43 ROMFUL AIR (C Mitchell) N Mitchell 5-10-11 ..... B Powell
46 VALLEE DES ROSES (V Tudge) M Eckley 6-10-11 ..... A O'Hagan
47 00 MARSTON MOOR (S Hossain) B Palling 4-10-7 ..... A Griffiths
49 ppp OGRE (D Williams) D Williams 4-10-7 ..... R Dennis 4
51 24 WATER CANNON (BF) (F Lee) F Lee 4-10-7 ..... S Holland

7-2 Periscope, 4 Treyford, 5 Water Cannon, 6 James My Boy, 8 Maujendor, 10 Bryma, 12 Coyor, Gold Warbler, 16 others.

FORM: TREYFORD, (11-3) a 3½l 3rd to Silent Surrender (10-6) at Wincanton (2m hdle, £879, good to soft, Dec 26, 20 ran). JAMES MY BOY (11-0) 1½l runner-up to Ruths Magic (10-9) over course and distance (£841, heavy, Dec 19, 20 ran). MAUJENDOR, (11-2) 11½l 3rd to Crumpet Catcher over course and distance (£958, good to soft, Feb 27, 21 ran). PERIS COPE, (11-1) 1½l 2nd to Down Flight (11-2) at Warwick (2m 5f hdle, £782, heavy, Mar 5, 23 ran). WATER CANNON, (10-9) beaten odds-on favourite when 8l 4th to Half Asleep (10-4) at Catterick (2m hdle, £791, good to firm, Mar 6, 19 ran).
Selection: MAUJENDOR

3.0 ST BARNABAS NOVICE CHASE (Div III: £1,041: 2m 4f) (16)

5 p21 KELLY'S HONOR (D) (R Belasco) J Webber 6-11-7 ..... Mr J Sharp 4
7 21p001 SCOTTISH DREAM (D) (R Tyrer) G Richards 7-11-7 ..... N Doughty
26 0/013-u2 CHASM (L Thwaites) F Walwyn 8-11-0 ..... R Pusey 4
27 020-pfp COLONEL CURTIS (B) (S Burfield) C Popham 6-11-0 ..... B Powell
34 30-2pf0 DOUBLE BSS (Miss M Wiggin) T Forster 8-11-0 ..... H Davies
41 230/p2-0 GRAND REVIEW (Mrs W Sykes) Mrs W Sykes 9-11-0 ..... S Morshead
48 0-00fu0 KARANNSU (L J Mahon Ltd) A Turnell 7-11-0 ..... Steve Knight
51 102-000 LE TOUQUET (Mrs M Hacker) R Hartop 6-11-0 ..... J Barlow
58 f-00ffp MAGIC MOUSE (M Stephenson) J Colston 9-11-0 ..... J Suthern
59 up0000 OULART HILL (R Harper) M Oliver 9-11-0 ..... R Dunwoody
63 000upp POOR EXCUSE (O Henley) O Henley 10-11-0 ..... P Dever
64 0/21-f00 RIVER SHEEN (Mrs C Morrison) R Armytage 7-11-0 ..... A Webber
70 00000-0 SHINING TUSK (C Culleton) Mrs C Lloyd-Jones 7-11-0 ..... S J O'Neill
77 0012-p TIGHT TURN (R Frost) R Frost 6-11-0 ..... J Frost
78 000/0-3f TOO OFTEN (Mrs D Stockil) K Bridgwater 6-11-0 ..... W Worthington 7
81 040002 VICTOR DUB (B) (P Cartridge) M Castell 7-11-0 ..... W Knox 7

5-2 Kelly's Honor, 7-2 Scottish Dream, 9-2 Chasm, 8 Grand Review, 8 Tight Turn, 10 Double Bass, 14 Too Often, Oulart Hill, 16 others.

FORM: KELLY'S HONOUR (11-3) beat Leith Hill Flyer (11-7) 3l at Huntingdon (2m 4f Nov ch, £2,898, good to soft, Feb 7, 18 ran), with KARANNSU (11-3) unseating 3 out when beaten. SCOTTISH DREAM (11-2) beat Purple Bean (10-11) 6l at Ayr (2m 4f Nov ch, £1,349, good, Mar 9, 14 ran). CHASM (11-4) 1½l 2nd of 15 to Claude Monet (11-4) at Hereford (2m 4f Nov ch, £1,839, soft, Mar 2) VICTOR DUB (10-5) 3l 2nd of 13 to Flying Mistress (11-4) at Southwell (2m Nov h'cap) ch, £825, soft, Mar 11).
Selection: CHASM.

3.30 PORTLAND WALK SELLING HURDLE (Div II: £617: 2m) (16)

3 00pp-0p NO SALE (B) (D) (N Spencer) C Popham 6-11-12 ..... R Dunwoody
5 0 ABERRATION (R Curtis) M McCormack 5-11-5 ..... P Barton
7 pp00 BELLAMUSE (Mrs B Mee) F Jordan 5-11-5 ..... R Hyett
8 04-00 CAPA (G Keary) O O'Neill 5-11-5 ..... J Suthern
9 0/40p3-0 CRUMBS (D Carey) 6-11-5 ..... Lorna Vincent
10 00-p004 DRUM MAKER (R Haynes) B Forsey 6-11-5 ..... J Duggan 4
11 002003- FORT LAMY (Miss P Turner) W G Turner 6-11-5 ..... Jessica Turner 7
13 pp0p0p GUARD THE FORT (B) (Mrs C Seymour) Mrs C Seymour 6-11-5 ..... C Gray
14 0p-0 HUNGARIAN PRINCE (B) (H White) W Clay 5-11-5 ..... S J O'Neill
16 044004 LIFT HIGH (M Ennott) D R Tucker 6-11-5 ..... S McNeill
26 034-pp0 THOMAS A BECKET (J Criddle) P Kearney 5-11-0 ..... Mr P Townsley
33 00p-000 FERNDALIS (D Holland) P Kearney 5-11-0 ..... I Raybould 7
37 uu-0000 LITTLE KHAN (J Johnson) J Johnson 6-11-0 ..... Mr I Johnson
43 00 ABOUT TIME TOO (B Monkhouse) J Jenkins 4-10-10 ..... –
49 p000 MR BENNINGTON (Benningtons Furniture) D Wintle 4-10-10 ..... A Carroll
54 p00 WHAT A PRINCESS (F Taylor) A Moore 4-10-5 ..... G Moore

3 About Time Too, 7-2 Capa, 4 Lift High, 7 Aberration, 8 Crumbs, 10 Drum Maker, Fort Lamy, 14 others.

4.0 KING JOHN HANDICAP CHASE (£1,931: 3m 5f) (16)

1 012000 SAILOR'S RETURN (Mrs S Tamlon) Mrs S Tamlon 9-11-7 ..... C Smith
5 pp/p00p SUGARALLY (M Shone) J Edwards 12-10-11 ..... P Barton
6 03bp0p GIDDYCAN (B) (C) (H Irish) K Bishop 9-10-8 ..... P Richards
10 04-pf00 BONUM OMEN (C) (L Thwaites) F Walwyn 11-10-4 ..... K Mooney
12 04p010 IMMIGRATE (BF) (W Stephenson-Taylor) G Richards 12-10-0 ..... N Doughty
13 p-p00f0 DRUMCONDRA (J Tamlon) Mrs S Tamlon 10-10-0 ..... A Sharpe
14 ppf-34p GALLEON BEACH (E Barber) J Edwards 9-10-0 ..... P Warner
15 210u4p JIMMY MIFF (C) (B Davies) I Wardle 13-10-0 ..... S J O'Neill
17 10-1000 SPACED OUT (C) (L Phipps) T Bailey 10-10-0 ..... Mr B Dowling 7
18 0-0000u JACKO (C) (Col P Bengough) D Nicholson 13-10-0 ..... P Scudamore
20 424004 NATIVE BREAK (R Edward) Mrs W Sykes 8-10-0 ..... S Morshead
21 3-4020f4 ROCKIN BERRY (A Bavis) Mrs M Evans 10-10-0 ..... Mr T Jackson
22 0301p0 MEMBRIDGE (P Dufosee) P Dufosee 10-10-0 ..... R Dunwoody
23 4/p3040 TENS OR BETTER (C) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) R Francis 11-10-0 ..... R Crank
27 4/0021p- HATTON LAD (B) (Mrs M Titterton) Mrs M Titterton 9-10-0 ..... G Newman
28 111200- SON OF QUIVER (A Smart) W G Turner 9-10-0 ..... Jessica Turner 7

4 Bonum Omen, 5 Immigrate, 13-2 Sailor's Return, 8 Galleon Beach, Jimmy Miff, Rockin Berry 10 Native Break, Jacko, 14 Membridge, 16 others.

FORM: SAILOR'S DREAM (11-10) 25l 5th to My Always (10-7) at Newton Abbot. GIDDYCAN (10-11) pulled up (3m 2f ch, £3,095, soft, Mar 13m, 15 ran). NONUM OMEN (10-0) 27l, 5th to Ballymilan (10-2) at Warwick (3m 4f ch £4 175, heavy, Mar 5, 12 ran). IMMIGRATE (10-9) 8½l 5th to Hotborn Head (10-6) at Sedgefield (3m 4f ch, £2,078, good, Mar 5, 11 ran), previously (10-2) got away with a bad mistake at the last to beat Greenbank Park (10-13) 10l at Doncaster. ROCKIN BERRY (10-0) 13l away 3rd (4m ch £3,361), firm, Feb 23, 6 ran). JIMMY MIFF, pulled up last time (Dec), earlier (10-1) 9l 4th to Kumbi (11-7) at Haydock (3m 4f ch, £2,995, good, Dec 13, 7 ran). MEMBRIDGE, pulled up last time, previously (10-1) beat Gaelic An Uisce (10-12) 12l at Sandown (3m ch, £2,713 soft, Feb 1, 9 ran)
Selection: IMMIGRATE.

Worcester selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Big Brown Bear. 1.30 Picket Line. 2.0 Emmason. 2.30 Periscope. 3.0 KELLY'S HONOR (nap). 3.30 Crumbs. 4.0 Spaced Out. 4.30 I'tsgottabealright. 5.0 Ben Lair. 5.30 Crumpet Catcher.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.0 Chasm.

4.30 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£1,485: 2m) (17)

4 00u131 ITSGOTTABEALRIGHT (D) (E Shailes) Mrs W Sykes 8-11-12 (6 ex) ..... S Morshead
7 30p023 TUDOR ROAD (CD) (BF) (A Stoddart) L Kennard 10-11-7 ..... B Powell
8 040-24p JOHN SILVER (C) (Mrs D Wintle) D Wintle 9-11-6 ..... R Hyett
9 f013f0 SKYTRAIN JETSET (D Hames) Earl Jones 6-11-0 ..... –
10 210-101 ARCHERS PRINCE (R Shaw) C James 7-10-13 ..... A Webber
11 up02p0 CROWNING MOMENT (B) (D) (H Spearing) I Wardle 10-10-13 ..... J Duggan 4
12 220040 DUNDRUM BAY (CD) (G Bradshaw) A Barrow 10-10-12 ..... R Hoare
13 12/0240 COLE PORTER (M Banks) M Banks 10-10-9 ..... G McCourt
14 423204 POMPOSITY (J Smith) R Smith 8-10-6 ..... W Knox 7
15 000/1p-0 CHRYSIPPOS (D) (D Price) M Scudamore) 8-10-6 ..... P Scudamore
19 p00-432 LAW VENTURE (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 11-10-0 ..... M Bastard
20 4fffu0 FARE LOVE (E Evans) E Evans 6-10-0 ..... P Warner
22 03013/0 STAN'S PET (S Savins) P Bevan 7-10-0 ..... –
23 004-000 MR CHOW (C Bridgett) C Bridgett 6-10-0 ..... Mr C Bridgett
24 ppr432 LUCKY GEM (F Taylor) A Moore 8-10-0 ..... G Moore
25 000ppp DAN DARE (O Henley) O Henley 10-10-0 ..... P Dever
26 3242u/0- VAUNTED (N Upson) J Long 15-10-0 ..... P Upson

7-2 Tudor Road, 4 Itsgottabealright, 6 Law Venture, 13-2 Lucky Gem, Dundrum Bay, 8 John Silver Cole Porter 12 Pomposity, 16 others.

ITSGOTTABEALRIGHT (11-0) made all when beating Slieve Bracken (11-8) a distance at Bangor (2m h cap ch, £1,629, good to soft, Mar 6, 7 ran). TUDOR ROAD (11-2) 11l 3rd of 8 to Spanish Streak (11-3) at Stratford (2m h cap ch, £1,632, heavy, Mar 7), when POMPOSITY (10-3) 12l away 4th, SKYTRAIN JETSET (10-9) further 12l away 5th, and CHRYSIPPOS (10-5) 7th after leading 2 out. LAW VENTURE (11-0) ¾l 2nd of 12 to Military Crown (10-2) at Doncaster (2m sell h'cap ch, £999, firm, Feb 25).
Selection: ITSGOTTABEALRIGHT.

5.0 ST BARNABAS NOVICE CHASE (Div IV: £1,033: 2m 4f) (16)

1 fp-p11p BEN LAIR (C) (W Whitbread) F Walwyn 7-12-0 ..... R Pusey 4
8 40432u GOLDEN HORNET (K Dunn) K Dunn 7-11-2 ..... L Bloomfield 4
10 p-00f03 AFRICAN STAR (Mrs L Bertram) J Roberts 7-11-0 ..... R Hoare
21 2/f4-0p0 BROUGHTON LAD (R Chugg) R Chugg 12-11-0 ..... –
26 20p400 CONN THE COBBLER (M Stephens) M Stephens 7-11-0 ..... A Sharpe
30 2/00-fu CORBENSON (J Tucker) Mrs D Tucker 9-11-0 ..... Philip Hobbs
38 0004fp FERNARO (M Henriques) M Henriques 8-11-0 ..... Mr A J Wilson
39 0fu000 GANDOUGE LANE (B) (C House) J Old 8-11-0 ..... G Bradley
47 pp00f/p KAMACHOW (C Bridgett) C Bridgett 9-11-0 ..... Mr C Bridgett
50 9 LANGTON CROSS (D Holdway) N Mitchell 8-11-0 ..... B Powell
54 030330 LIGHT SENTENCE (B Gordon) P Pritchard 7-11-0 ..... C Mann
67 2f-00f0 SAUSILITO (C Popham) C Popham 7-11-0 ..... –
68 p22-0f0 SAYS EYE (P Harris) D Wintle 10-11-0 ..... Mr N Babbage 4
76 10400/0 THORNTON (P Tucker) S May 6-11-0 ..... S May
83 p/pp-0 CINDY'S RIVAL (W Kelly) J Webber 7-10-9 ..... G McCourt
87 2-00000 MARIBAN (J Lewis) R Holder 6-10-9 ..... P Richards

5-4 Ben Lair, 3 Golden Hornet, 8 Light Sentence, Broughton Lad, 10 African Star, 14 Conn The Cobbler, 20 others.

BEN LAIR pulled up behind Glyde Court at Cheltenham, previously (11-8) beat Seven Acres (10-12) here (3m) Nov ch, £1,280, heavy, Dec 19, 18 ran). GOLDEN HORNET unseated last time, earlier (10-3) ½l 2nd of 17 to The Cleaver (10-0) at Chepstow (2m 4f Nov ch, £1,685, soft, Mar 9), when THORNTON (10-3) last to finish after fallen first and remounting. AFRICAN STAR (10-6) 12¾l 3rd of 8 finishers to Le Gran Brun (10-5) at Windsor (2m 5f Nov h'cap ch, £1,378, good to soft, Mar 4)
Selection: BEN LAIR.

5.30 PITCHCROFT NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: £916: 2m 4f) (24)

1 f04-1 CRUMPET CATCHER (C) (D Richards) D Richards 9-11-12 ..... Mr M Richards 7
3 401 TRACY'S (Exors of late Maj J Rubin) J Old 4-11-3 ..... G Bradley
4 00/pp AIREDALE JUNCTION (R Allsop) R Brazington 7-11-2 ..... C Jones
5 0-f0000 AL SANDRO (A Hopkins) P Pritchard 6-11-2 ..... C Mann
6 f0p ALSIRI (Mrs P Harris) P W Harris 6-11-2 ..... R Strange
11 0p0 CHANCE FACT (J Stratton) A Chamberlain 5-11-2 ..... A Chamberlain
14 4/000 DAINTY JOE (J Bowyer) Mrs C Lloyd-Jones 9-11-2 ..... S J O'Neill
17 0/f00-0p EL CITO (C Mitchell) N Mitchell 8-11-2 ..... J Suthern
22 00p HIGHLAND CHATTER (Hunt and Co, Bournemouth) T Bulgin 6-11-2 ..... –
27 00-p2b0 LEVANT WAY (Mrs M Bisgrove) W Fisher 5-11-2 ..... K Mooney
31 4f0 POOR HAL (Anne Duchess of Westminster) R Francis 7-11-2 ..... R Crank
39 ff-0000 VULRORY'S CLOWN (Mrs H Dowson) Mrs H Dowson 7-11-2 ..... P Nicholls
40 00022 CAUCHEMAR (N Delemain) Mrs J Barrow 6-10-11 ..... Peter Hobbs
43 404 LIQUER CANDY (MRS A Wakeham) J Webber 6-10-11 ..... D McCourt
44 000- MAYBE MAISEY (Miss E Grimwade) B Venn 6-10-11 ..... –
46 30 RATHMILL SYKE (J Needham) J Needham 5-10-11 ..... A Hulburd 7
48 00-0 TIPPERARY SAINT (Mrs P Cosgrave) J Cosgrave 7-10-11 ..... E Waite
49 0-0 TRIDENT MISSILE (Mrs M Thorne) N Henderson 6-10-11 ..... J White
51 00000 HADDAK (C Lakin) B Palling 4-10-7 ..... A Griffiths
52 0 MASTER PEPPER (R Haynes) B Forsey 4-10-7 ..... J Duggan 4
54 b0004 AVERAGE (Mrs M Hambro) L Kennard 4-10-2 ..... B Powell
55 HELLS JOY (Mrs M Titterton) Mrs M Titterton 4-10-2 ..... G Newman
56 p PRFECT DOUBLE (A Blackham) B Cambridge 4-10-2 ..... Mr J Cambridge
57 p STREAKING LADY (S Wilcox) C Popham 4-10-2 ..... R Dunwoody

2 Tracy's, 3 Levant Way, 5 Crumpet Catcher, 8 Cauchemar, Liquer Candy, 12 Trident Missile, Average, 16 others.

FORM: CRUMPET CATCHER (11-2) beat Taylorstown (11-2) 10l over course and distance (£958, good to soft, Feb 27, 21 ran), VULRORY'S CLOWN (11-2) 8th. TRACY'S (11-0) beat Brave Words (11-0) 4l at Wolverhampton (2m sell h, £779, good to soft, Mar 15, 9 ran). LEVANT WAY (11-0) every chance when ran out last in race won by Oakley House (11-0) at Warwick (2m Nov H, £1864, soft, Feb 5, 16 ran). CAUCHEMAR (11-1) ¾l 2nd of 15 to Bruneval (10-12) at Southwell (2m Nov H, £916, soft, Mar 11). LIQUER CANDY (10-11) 15½l 4th of 23 to Down Flight (11-2) at Warwick (2m 5f Nov H, £781, heavy, Mar 5)
Selection: CRUMPET CATCHER.

KELSO

GOING: good to soft (chase); soft (hurdles)

2.15 HEITON NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £866: 2m) (18 runners)

2 01 JONLANI Mrs M Dickinson 6-11-9 ..... R Earnshaw
3 1400 SECRET WALK (D) W A Stephenson 4-11-8 ..... R Lamb
5 0000 AQUA VERDE M Kellett 6-11-1 ..... –
8 003-p DEREK'S BAY W Redfern 6-11-1 ..... –
9 C0 EASTER BRIG G Richards 5-11-1 ..... J K Kinane
14 3000 TANA'S PERFORMANCE N Crump 6-11-1 ..... C Hawkins
15 0303 THE BUILDER Mrs G Reveley 6-11-1 ..... T G Dun
16 0060 COLISLACE H McConnell 7-10-10 ..... –
17 00 LONDON BLITZ Mrs J Goodfellow 5-10-10 ..... –
18 30-00 MOONLIGHTING P Calver 5-10-10 ..... C Grant
20 p0 p TUDOR DREAM T Craig 7-10-10 ..... M Ennis
21 C00 BUNRANNOCH HOUSE R Fisher 4-10-7 ..... P Tuck
22 DRAGCNADE C Booth 4-10-7 ..... S Charlton
23 0 GRANGE OF GLORY R Fisher 4-10-7 ..... M Meagher 4
25 4 JIM THORPE G Richards 4-10-7 ..... D Coakley 4
26 0 MASTER RICKIE D Swindlehurst 4-10-7 ..... Mr D Swindlehurst 7
28 00 WHISTLING STELLAR M Naughton 4-10-7 ..... –
29 f LEMON SQUASH C Thornton 4-10-2 ..... D Wilkinson

11-10 Jonlani, 7-2 Jim Thorpe, 9-2 Secret Walk, 8 The Builder, 10 Moonlighting, 12 Tana's Performance, 14 others.

2.45 GREENLAW NOVICE CHASE (£860: 2m 196yd) (12)

3 2141 ON LEAVE A Scott 8-10-11 ..... –
4 fu01 SHINEY SON W A Stephenson 7-11-10 ..... R Lamb
6 0-000 BOBBING STAR B McMahon 8-11-0 ..... –
7 2-23b BROTHER GEOFFREY C Thornton 6-11-0 ..... D Wilkinson
9 003p JONDALE M Lambert 8-11-0 ..... P A Charlton
12 pppl LOCHAN CORRIE J Haldane 8-11-0 ..... –
13 4000 MR NASH (B) T Dun 8-11-0 ..... –
17 0000 STARJESTIC R Robinson 7-11-0 ..... G W Gray
18 pu00 TAMSON'S TIPPLE D Robertson 8-11-0 ..... Mr D Robertson
20 p10 COOL KIT C A Douglas 9-10-9 ..... –
22 3241 MAGGIES GIRL Denys Smith 8-10-9 ..... C Grant
23 00-up THE HOWLET J Oliver 6-10-9 ..... T G Dun

1-2 On Leave, 5-2 Brother Geoffrey, 7-2 Maggies Girl, 5 Shiney Son, 8 Jondale, 14 Bobbing Star, 16 others.

3.15 CROALL BRYSON LAND ROVER HUNTER CHASE (amateurs: £848: 3m) (11)

1 20-10 CHEERIE CHIEF (CD) H Barclay 9-12-1 ..... J Anderson 7
3 1u-24 YOUGHAL (CD) (BF) W A Stephenson 9-11-11 ..... J Greenall 7
4 f- ARCTIC OWEN J Gibson 9-11-7 ..... –
5 3-020 ARTHUR BELL'S J Wight 9-11-7 ..... A Wight 7
6 04-00 BAWNEEN Lady Renwick 11-11-7 ..... –
7 1/04- FLYING ACE A Calder 9-11-7 ..... Miss D Calder 7
9 2f/ HUNTERMAC Mrs E Stokell 10-11-7 ..... Miss A Stokell 7
11 300-3 PANEGYRIST C Alexander 10-11-7 ..... A Dudgeon 4
12 0p/0p PENNINE DEREK R Johnson 11-11-7 ..... P Johnson 7
13 040u/ WARDSOFF R Thorburn 8-11-7 ..... –
14 p31/4- WEST ACRE (D) R MacNaughton 12-11-7 ..... –

11-8 Cheerie Chief, 5-2 Flying Ace, 9-2 Youghal, 10 Arthur Bell's, 14 Panegyrist, West Acre, 20 others.

3.45 HEITON NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: £638: 2m) (16)

2 0030 BILLY TOBIN Miss Z Green 5-11-1 ..... J Goulding
3 0034 BRILLIANT FELLOW P Monteith 8-11-1 ..... D Nolan
4 CAPTAIN CURTAIN R Fisher 5-11-1 ..... P Tuck
5 f DAN THE MILLAR (BF) Mrs M Dickinson 6-11-1 ..... NON-RUNNER
6 00 NORWHISTLE T Craig 5-11-1 ..... M Ennis
7 p-00 RHEIN LAD T Barnes 5-11-1 ..... M Barnes
8 0-000 ROTATE W Murray 5-11-1 ..... B Storey
10 2-400 CORRIELEK G Fairbairn 8-10-10 ..... A Charlton 7
11 f0 GREY LIL R Allan 5-10-10 ..... J Hansen
12 f00 MILTON LOCKHART W Young 6-10-10 ..... Mr R Robinson 4
15 0pp MR SPONGE D Lamb 4-10-7 ..... R Lamb
17 20 PADDY HAYTON S Leadbetter 4-10-7 ..... A Brown
18 0 SINGING SABRE Lord Kilmany 4-10-7 ..... D Dutton
19 0000 TASAR W A Stephenson 4-10-7 ..... K Jones
20 3 WISE CRACKER G W Richards 4-10-7 ..... D Coakley 4
21 00 FORLORN MOLLY P Wight 4-10-2 ..... –

evens Wise Cracker, 4 Brilliant Fellow, 11-2 Captain Curtain, 7 Corrielek, 12 others.

4.15 BERRYMOSS HANDICAP HURDLE (£951: 3m 1f 120yd) (15)

4 0200 PEN ROYAL (B) T Craig 8-11-7 ..... C Grant
6 2220 PITCRUIVIE G W Richards 5-11-3 ..... D Coakley 4
7 3100 SECRET LAKE D MacDonald 6-11-2 ..... B Storey
8 p102 JOE'S FANCY (C) P Liddle 7-11-1 ..... G W Gray
9 300-4 SLAVE KING J Wilson 6-10-11 ..... S Sherman
10 0463 KELSO CHANT R Gray 13-10-10 ..... –
11 0333 TENNAGE LOVE Mrs M Dickinson 8-10-8 ..... R Earnshaw
13 22-03 RABY R Allan 6-10-5 ..... J Hansen
15 3004 ARMENISTIS S Leadbetter 6-10-4 ..... M Barnes
16 020p RAMOA'S SON (B) N Waggott 9-10-4 ..... Mr N Waggott 7
18 1-042 ISLANDER Ld Kilmany 13-10-2 ..... D Dutton
20 00up MARACAS BAY (B) N Waggott 6-10-0 ..... Miss T Waggott 7
21 0030 VICTORY MORN J Dixon 9-10-0 ..... K Doolan 4
23 0-0f0 BLACKADDER BRIG R McDonald 6-10-0 ..... C Hawkins
25 u3fp LARRY HILL Mrs J Goodfellow 10-10-0 ..... P A Farrell 7

4 Joe's Fancy, 9-2 Teenage Love, 5 Slave King, 7 Pitcruivie, 9 Secret Lake, 10 Islander, 12 Kelso Chant, Raby, 14 Pen Royal, 16 Others.

Kelso selections

By Mandarin

2.15 Jonlani. 2.45 On Leave. 3.15 Youghal. 3.45 Wise Cracker. 4.15 Joe's Fancy. 4.45 Peaty Sandy. 5.15 Zotov.

By Michael Seely

2.45 Brother Geoffrey. 4.45 JOCKAMBEL (nap).

4.45 KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£1,350: 3m) (12)

1 1002 PEATY SANDY (CD) Miss H Hamilton 11-12-12 ..... Mr A Dudgeon 7
8 p02p CANTON N Crump 11-10-7 ..... D Wilkinson
10 21u JOCKAMBEL (CD) D Thomson 9-10-2 ..... D Coakley 4
12 3220 UNSCRUPULOUS JUDGE (CD) (BF) W A Stephenson 8-10-0 ..... Mr P J Dun
13 130/4- BLACKHAWK STAR (CD) K Oliver 11-10-0 ..... –
14 fppp TWICE TIMES (CD) J Brockbank 10-10-0 ..... –
15 01/0-p MISTY RASCAL (C) W Crawford 10-10-0 ..... C Grant
16 3230 LITTLE FRENCHMAN (CD) E Robson 12-10-0 ..... C Pimlott
17 uf20 VENDEVAR (D) S Leadbetter 10-10-0 ..... –
19 03-up BONNIE SON (B) J Parkes 11-10-0 ..... R Balfour 7
20 3f01 MEGGIES DENE (D) Miss M Benson 9-10-4 (4ex) ..... –
21 p00 HAZY GLEN T Barnes 7-10-0 ..... M Barnes

11-4 Unscrupulous Judge, 7-2 Peaty Sandy, 4 Jockambel, 5 Little Frenchman, 8 Vendevar, 8 Meggies Dene, 12 Hazy Glen, 14 Canton, 16 Others

5.15 DALKEITH TRAVEL STAKES (NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE) (735: 2m) (25)

1 30 ANOTHER GEAR W A Stephenson 6-11-10 ..... S Mitchell 7
3 BRONZE APOLLO C Alexander 5-11-10 ..... –
4 BUTTONWOOD BAY M H Easterby 6-11-10 ..... S Milburn 7
5 CANDY CONE R Brewis 5-11-10 ..... Mr A Dudgeon
6 CHESTER GARTH Miss K Thompson 5-11-10 ..... Miss K Thompson 7
8 DERWENT'S LAD P Calver 5-11-10 ..... D Thompson 7
11 HIGH COVERT T Walford 5-11-10 ..... Mr T Walford
12 0 HOPEFULL FUTURE D Lee 5-11-10 ..... –
15 PRUDENT BOY J Johnson 5-11-10 ..... –
18 THE COWAN THING Mrs G Reveley 5-11-10 ..... –
19 TOM POUSSE D Lee 5-11-10 ..... P Addie 7
20 p TULLYCANNA J Wade 5-11-10 ..... Mr J Wade
21 0 CARAT STICK F Walton 5-11-5 ..... Mr J Walton
22 GALLOPING GUYANCE Lady Renwick 5-11-5 ..... –
24 POLLY PUTNAM Lady Renwick 5-11-5 ..... –
25 THE FRIDGED MIDGET W Redfern 5-11-5 ..... Mrs S Redfern
30 CRAIGDARROCH LODGE W A Stephenson 4-11-2 ..... A Merrigan 7
31 0 DENETOP GEM F Musgrave 4-11-2 ..... Miss J Musgrave 7
35 KIMSWA W A Stephenson 4-11-2 ..... Miss M Bell
37 LITTLE JACK HORNER C Thornton 4-11-2 ..... P A Farrell 7
41 STREAM OF BUNCLODY J Haldane 4-11-2 ..... Mr P Henderson 7
42 WOOD SPOILER T Fairhurst 4-11-2 ..... Mr P Dennis 7
43 3 ZOTOV (BF) M H Easterby 4-11-2 ..... Mr T Easterby
44 CHIP OF GOLD R Allen 4-10-11 ..... Miss J Bell 7
45 KERSTELLA N Crump 4-10-11 ..... Jayne Thompson 7

9-4 Little Jack Horner, 3 Zotov, 4 Another Gear, 5 Buttonwood Boy, 8 Kerstella, 10 Kimsawa, 14 The Cowan Thing, 16 Others.

Results from yesterday's two meetings

Fontwell Park

GOING: good

2.0 (2m 2f hdle) 1, THE GOVERNOR (J Francome, 8-1); 2, Severn Sound (G Davies, 20-1); 3, Cervante Sovereign (R Millman, 12-1); 4, Alumnus (M Hoad, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Bali George, 11-2 Rheingold's Gift (f), 10 Harlow Mill, Answer To Prayer, Jimmy Boy, 12 Candaules, 14 Cider With Kathy (6th), Menton, 16 Haywire, 20 Devon Minnow, Henry Ford (pu), 25 Allado (5th), 33 Plash, Linton Glen, Kerry's Court, Quaker Lad, Welsh Valley, Vulgan's Honor. 22 ran. 3l, 7l, 5l, 1½l, 4l. J Jenkins at Epsom. TOTE: £4.20; £1.40, £4.70, £3.50, £23.30. DF: £69.40. CSF: £159.47. TRICAST: £1,774.90. Bought in 860 gns.

2.30 (2m 2f 110yds ch) 1, RUN TO ME (B Powell, 7-1); 2, Fire Drill (A Jones, 4-1 jt fav); 3, Buck And Wing (M Perrett, 4-1 jt fav). ALSO RAN. 11-2 Moon Dreamer, 15-2 Ro's Owen (pu), 8 Grima (f), 10 Benny's Boy (pu), 14 Master Nibble (4th). 20 Graiguenamanagh (5th). Famous Footsteps (ur). 33 Aspen Flare, L Auberdiere (pu). 50 Downpayment (5th). 13 ran. NR: Tower Moss. 2l, 10l, 8l, 12l, 12l. N R Mitchell at Sherbourne. TOTE: £8.80; £2.00, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £10.00. CSF: £33.87. TRICAST: £119.32.

3.0 (3m 2f hdle) 1, PARADISE STRAITS (R Dunwoody, 4-1); 2, Komatch (P Leach, 10-1); 3, Sidskelter (W Knot, 33-1); 4, Upton Kelly (M Richards, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Oregon Trail (f). 11-2 Mendelsak, 9 Go To Sleep (pu), 10 Anex, Indians Dare, 12 Ziparlo, 14 Linton (bd), Major Tom (6th), 16 Toyco, 20 Amrullah (5th), Drummond Street, 25 Broken Flight, Royalty Miss, 33 Rough Course (pu), 50-1 Flamex Lad, Unequal Halves, Polly Toodle, On Trust. 22 ran. 12l, 2l, 1½l, ¾l, 10l. TOTE: £12.80; £1.90, £4.30, £5.20, £4.00. DF: S Woodman at Chichester. £221.60. C.S.F £146.57. TRICAST £4,126.01.

3.30 (3m 2f ch) 1, CHEADLE GREEN (L Bloomfield, 5-1 fav); 2, Lumparite (G Jones, 10-1); 3, Playfields (B Powell, 20-1); 4, Dargai (A Webber, 8-1). ALSO RAN. 6 Guerrin, Ten Bears (5th), 8 Monkton Rill (pu), 10 Brit (6th), 12 Lawn Meet (f), 14 Fil de Fer, 16 Revolver (f), 20 Grey Tarquin, 33 Canford Lad (pu), Gold Racer, 50 Armaino (pu), Runwick Prospect (pu). NR: Another Cygnet. 16 ran. 8l, 2½l, 2l, 3l, 15l. T Hallett at Saltash. TOTE: £6.90; £2.30, £2.10, £6.10. DF: £122.30. C.S.F: £52.27. TRICAST £858.37.

4.00 (2m 2f hdle) 1, YOUNG NICHOLAS (S Smith Eccles, 2-5 fav); 2, Mezlera (R Arnott, 14-1); 3, Honest Him (A Webb, 14-1). ALSO RAN. 11-2 Rainbow Lady (4th), 12 Should Never Be, 14 Winning Star, 16 Sassanoco, 33 I Wonder When P.U. Quorate, 50 Coldharbour Lad 5th, Paramount (6th), Jonix (P.U.) Batu, Country Cap, Point Blank, Running Bull, Housewife 17 ran. NR: Young Buckers, Burns Lad, Parveno, N Henderson at Lambourn. TOTE: £1.60; £1.20, £2.20, £3.70. DF: £5.10. C.S.F £9.65.

4.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, FREDDIE BEE (Mr T Grantham, 5-4 fav); 2, Fada (Mr C Pilgrim, 7-1); 3, Lone Streak (Mr M Smallman, (33-1). ALSO RAN: 4 High Class Agent (4th), 10 K ipsa (6th), My John Chariott (F), 11 Cheeke Chappie (P/U), 16 Blackthorn Lad (F), 20 Beggar's Bush, 50 Wing's Midas (5th), Holnicote (P/U), Tackberry (P/U), North Street (Ref). 13 ran. 3l, 30l, 4l, 20l, 25l. R Parker, at Chilworth. TOTE: £2.50; £1.40, £1.80, £4.50. DF: £4.10. C.S.F £10.83. PLACEPOT; £246.30.

Nottingham

Going: Good

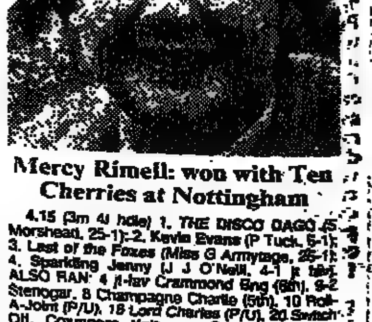
1.45 (2m hdle) 1, SHARAT (S Johnson, 12-1); 2, Ziggurat (J J O'Neill, 26-1), 3, Indian (D McKeown, 33-1). ALSO RAN: evens fav Bernini (6th), 13-2 Private Label (4th), 10 Ustary Lad (5th), 14 Celtic Burn, Netherdar, 16 Keldlands, 20 Edozien, Gerami, Last Enemy, 50 Ballyknash, Barney's Choice, Spring Fox (pu), Tixall Boy, August Folly, Bright Honey (f), Hopeful Daughter, Same Date, Some Grange (pu), Tom's Last, Ascendross (pu), Bren Gunner & Son of Spritus (f). 25 ran. 4l, ¾l, 2l, hd, 4l. DF: K A Morgan at Grantham. TOTE: £7.10; £2.60, £1.80, £4.90. DF: £120.0. CSF: £88.16

2.15 (2m 6f ch) 1, WORK MATE (Mr S Sherwood, 5-1); 2, Bishops Yarn (B Reilly 10-11 fav); 3, Excluder (R Stronged 25-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 The Royal Comrie (4th), 9 Hurry Up Henry (f), 25 The Mighty Boco (f), 50 Barzini (5th), Little Saxham (pu), Maxi Moment (6th) 9 Ran. 4l, 2l, 10l, 8l, 5l. G Pritchard-Gordon at Newmarket. TOTE: £5.00; £1.90, £1.10, £2.80. DF: £3.40. CSF: £9.04.

2.45 (2m hdle) 1, BURANNPOUR (T Jarvis, 7-4 fav); 2, Guilfand (Mr S Sherwood, 9-1); 3, Easter Day (C Grant, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 7 New Song, 10 True Heritage (4th), Buckfast Abbey (5th), Cool Sun, 20 Benmore, Winning Flush, 25 Dubavarna, Our Choice (6th), 33 Balarum, Centaur Song, Hyperion Prince, My Name Is Nobody, Write The Music, 50 Al Sandro, Chinsurah, Collaroy, Tarville, Sparkler Superb, Court Prince. 22 ran. NR: Delighting, The Cngnam, Inset Lady. 4l, 1l, 1½l, nk, 2½l. A Jarvis at Royston. TOTE: £2.40; £1.20, £3.70, £2.80. DF: £8.80. CSF: £18.80.

3.15 (3m 4f ch) 1, MR SNUGFIT (P Tuck, 5-4 fav); 2, Personality Plus (R Crank, 25-1); 3, Hill Of Slane (T Jarvis, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Inkling (5th), 7 Succeeded (4th), 8 Port Askaig (p/u), 14 Santa Noel (p/u), 20 Moor Close (p/u). 8 ran. 1½l, 1l, 7l, 12l, 3. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. TOTE: £2.30; £1.20, £1.60, £3.60. CSF: £26.90.

3.45 (2m 6f ch) 1, TEN CHERRIES (Mr M Bell, 2-1 fav); 2, Song of Life (Mr J Greenall, 9-4); 3, Royal Dust (Mr S Sherwood, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Alabama (5th), 10 Counterlone (4th), 16 Pine King, 20 Ridgeman (U/R), 25 Metala (P/U), 33 Premier Mal, Gelahad II (U/R), Good Action (F), Jassim (6th), Judge James (BD), Lowland Cavalier, Martinstown, Tehran Prince (P/U), Kate Bush. 17 ran. 4l 3l, 1½l, 4l, 15l. Mrs M Rimell at Severn Stoke. tote: £2.70; £1.30, £1.20, £4.60. DF £4.90. CSF £6.61.



Mercy Rimell: won with Ten Cherries at Nottingham

4.15 (3m 4f hdle) 1, THE DISCO DAGO (S Morshead, 25-1); 2, Kevin Evans (P Tuck, 6-1); 3, Last of the Foxes (Miss G Armytage, 25-1); 4, Sparkling Jenny (J J O'Neill, 4-1 jt fav). ALSO RAN: 4 jt-fav Crammond Brig (6th), 9-2 Stenogar, 8 Champagne Charlie (5th), 10 Roll-A-Joint (P/U), 16 Lord Charles (P/U), 20 Switch Off, Coxmoore Knitwear, Cambro Boy, 25 Shirley Grove, 33 Fine Tale, Smoker, 50 Wit-Tol, Tom Farr, Bell Hop, Joat, Demon King (P/U) 20 ran. NR: Rigton Sally. 5l, 1½l, 8l, 1½l, 1½l. J Spearing at Alcester. TOTE: £24.50; £1.70, £2.20, £5.70, £1.10. DF £36.50. CSF £169.33. TRICAST: £3,491.58. PLACEPOT: £11.50.

صكا من الاصل

Law Report March 20 1985

Charge and control order on child

Regina v F (a Child)

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Boreham

[Judgment delivered March 8]

When a boy aged 13 appealed against sentence of two years' detention imposed for robbery and other offences, the Court of Appeal substituted an order, under section 22 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, adding to a care order made in 1980 a condition as to "charge and control" for the maximum of six months during which time the local authority could not exercise their power under section 21(2) of the Child Care Act 1980 to allow the child to be under the charge and control of a parent, guardian, relative or friend.

Mr Timothy Ryder, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the detention sentence was imposed in January under the provisions of section 53(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 on the boy's plea of guilty to robbery. He admitted being in breach of a two-year conditional discharge for burglary imposed in July 1984 and he had one offence taken into consideration.

The crime to which he pleaded guilty was by any token extremely serious. His background history was depressing. The offence taken into consideration was burglary committed in the company of his stepfather, with whom the boy was living at home and who had a long criminal record.

The boy was under the tutelage of the local authority under the 1980 care order, the reason being that, by the age of nine, he had committed a number of serious offences. At a tender age he was placed in a local authority home where he remained for 18 months. Then – with hindsight it was a mistake – he was released back to home where the inevitable happened, as was demonstrated by the facts of the case.

It was always a grave problem for the court to decide the proper course of action in such circumstances. Not many options were open.

The main ones would be: a fine – wholly inappropriate in the present case; an attendance centre order – equally inappropriate in the present case; an order under the 1933 Act – which had been imposed here; or else, a care order being in existence, an order under section 22 of the 1982 Act (which added section 20A to the Children and Young Persons Act 1969) of "charge and control".

Section 20A enabled the court to add to a care order a condition under the section "that the power conferred by section 21(2) of the Child Care Act 1980 (power of local authority to allow a parent, guardian, relative or friend charge and control) shall for such period not exceeding six months as the court may specify in the condition – (a) not be exercisable; or (b) not be exercisable except to allow the person to whom the order relates to be under the control of a specified parent, guardian, relative or friend".

A section 53 order was primarily but not altogether aimed at punishment. It demonstrated to the child or young person that such behaviour was not to be tolerated and, if it occurred, punishment by way of custodial sentence would be imposed, similar to imprisonment. At the same time, however, educational facilities existed in the places to which the Home Office sent such youngsters and sight was not lost of the fact that they had to be taught as well as punished.

The other effect of the section 53 order was that, when the child was released, little by way of supervision or direction could be imposed on him. If the sentence stood, when the appellant was 15 or so, he and the local authority would be left high and dry in limbo, having the worst of both worlds.

Charge and control, coupled with the care order meant that up to the age of 18 the care order continued. If the order sought were to be made it would mean in practical terms that the boy would go to Danesford Treatment Centre, a community home. He would go there certainly, their Lordships were assured, for two years and possibly for a great deal longer. That type of centre was aimed not primarily at punishment but at rehabilitation and re-education.

Their Lordships had been told that the boy was sufficiently intelligent with any luck to realise that if such an order was made he was being treated with comparative leniency and it would be up to him to take advantage of it.

The advantage of such an order was that it did not end abruptly at the end of two years as the section 53 order did. The local authority was enabled to keep tabs on the boy and so to ensure, if they possibly could, that he was weaned away from the terrible start he had had to his life.

Their Lordships had been persuaded by what they had been told by counsel and the social worker that it would be wrong to leave the detention order, even though possibly shorter.

They hoped that the views expressed by Mr Ajram, a social worker, that the appellant would be kept at the treatment centre certainly for two years and possibly longer, would be adhered to.

If the appellant took advantage of the opportunity, his life might still be worth living. If he did not he should realise that he was bidding fair to spend most of the rest of his life in some sort of prison.

Variation in terms of jail no false imprisonment

Regina v Board of Visitors Gartree Prison, Ex parte Sears

Before Mr Justice Mann

[Judgement delivered March 14]

A variation in the conditions of confinement of a lawfully detained prisoner, could not constitute the common law tort of false imprisonment.

A board of visitors, just as a bench of justices, could be held liable for torts as a result of acting in excess of their jurisdiction.

An application for judicial review did not deprive a person of seeking to pursue a remedy in damages he otherwise had at common law.

Mr Justice Mann so held in the Queen's Bench Division dismissing an application for damages by way of judicial review to compensate the applicant, Alexander James George Sears, serving a sentence of 18 years' imprisonment, for 14 days cellular confinement and 14 days loss of privileges for an alleged offence against good order and discipline imposed by the board on June 30, 1983.

Mr Andrew Collins for the applicant; Mr George Pulman for the board of visitors.

MR JUSTICE MANN said that the board had conceded that it had no jurisdiction to find the applicant guilty of the offence charged and therefore certiorari would go to quash that decision.

The cellular confinement imposed by the board was a punishment since that sentence was a regime which he would otherwise not have experienced.

His Lordship accepted the reasoning of Mr Justice Tudor Evans in *Williams v Home Office (No 2)* ([1981] 1 All ER 1211, 1227c, 1242g), that there was no modern authority that a lawful detention might become unlawful if the conditions of imprisonment changed, and that the tort of false imprisonment consisted of a complete deprivation of liberty, for however short a time, without lawful excuse.

Therefore, whether the variation in conditions of confinement was as a result of a managerial decision of the governor or a determination by the board which could be flawed for want of jurisdiction did not lead to the tort of false imprisonment at common law.

His Lordship added that he was not concerned with other torts of trespass to the person such as assault and battery; nor had he been pressed with some new tort concerned with the variation of conditions of a lawful confinement.

No sensible distinction could be drawn between a bench of justices acting in a judicial capacity and a board of visitors, so that a board could be liable for torts committed in consequence of acting in excess of jurisdiction: see *In re McC (a Minor)* (*The Times*, November 28, 1984; [1984] 3 WLR 1227) although it might be subject to similar statutory protection.

Mr Pulman submitted that on a combination of Order 53, rule 7(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court and *O'Reilly v Mackman* ([1983] 2 AC 237) the applicant was precluded from an award of damages as the claim would have been struck out as an abuse of process.

The flaw in that argument, however, was that a claim for damages for false imprisonment was a claim for invasion of a private right which arose under private law; the remedy for breach of such a right could for convenience arise in *judicial review proceedings*.

There was no difficulty in accommodating a course of litigation which encompassed a judicial review application of a decision allegedly taken without jurisdiction and the commencement of an action for damages for false imprisonment in consequence of the decision sought to be challenged in the judicial review proceedings.

Solicitors: Gamlens for George E. Baker & Co, Guildford; Treasury Solicitor.

Hiring is supply of goods

Cahalne v Croydon London Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Mr Justice Stuart-Smith

[Judgment delivered March 4]

The hiring of pre-recorded video cassettes amounted to "supply of goods" for the purposes of section 1(1) of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and accordingly the hiring to members of the public in the course of a trade or business of such video cassettes to which a false trade description was applied was an offence under section 1(1)(b) of that Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by John Patrick Cahalne against his conviction by Bromley Justices on six informations laid on behalf of the Croydon London Borough Council each alleging an offence of supplying goods, namely a pre-recorded video cassette to which a false trade description, consisting of a label on the cassette box indicating that the cassette had been produced by a company which had not in fact produced it, had been applied, contrary to section 1(1)(b) of the 1968 Act.

Mr Benjamin Conlon and Mr Barry Forward for the appellant; Mr Brian Jubb for the council.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that the appellant had contended that the hiring of pre-recorded video cassettes was the supplying of services, but not of goods, and therefore that the prosecutions should have been brought, if at all, under section 14 of the 1968 Act.

His Lordship had no doubt that video cassettes were goods within the meaning of section 1(1) of the Act, and that the offering of such cassettes for hire to members of the public was an offer to supply goods.

"Supply" in effect meant distribution, and hiring was clearly a method of distribution; it was therefore not necessary to establish a sale of goods for "supply" to be made out under section 1(1).

The advertisement of the availability of such cassettes for hire to members of a club, and the fact that persons hiring them filled in a membership card for such a club were not sufficient to raise any presumption that such a club existed.

Accordingly on the evidence before them and in the absence of any evidence as to the existence of a club committee or rules, or of a procedure for joining it, the justices had been right to find that the cassettes had been supplied to members of the public in contravention of section 1(1).

The Act was intended to protect the public from the supply of misdescribed goods – its ambit was very wide, and section 1(1) covered all forms of hiring of goods.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith agreed.

Solicitors: William J. Stoffel & Co, Catford; Mr Peter Dixon, Croydon.

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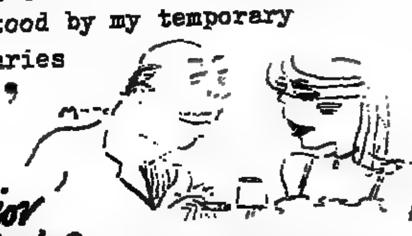

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Applicants should be between about 25 and 30, and able to provide excellent references to qualify for this diverse, interesting and very responsible position.

The vacancy must be filled quickly. Please tel Rose Cross at Grey Advertising on 01-636 3399 for details. Very good salary for a very good person.

PA/SECRETARY TO PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

The Director in charge of book publishing at The Architectural Press is looking for a reliable, experienced and well organised personal assistant. Applicants must have fast, accurate audio-typing speeds and strong administrative ability. Book publishing experience would be an advantage. Please write, enclosing full CV and quoting current salary, to

Maritz Vandenberg, Director, The Architectural Press, 9 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BY.

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174 New Bond Street

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You will probably be 25+ and have a minimum of 3 years experience at Director level, excellent typing and shorthand, be attractive, have an eye for detail and the ability to work under pressure.

For further information contact Marion Benn.

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If you are looking for a true PA role where will involve you, and a boss who will delegate, we have a superb opening within this well known City based company.

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These image building Designers seek your creative background, good skills and polished presentation to complete their team. Superb offices. You will be a true linch pin between Designers and clients. Superb opportunity for the young career minded P.A.

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588 3535

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James Richardson
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8 John Adams Street,
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The newly promoted Director of this prestigious City Wine Merchant requires a young PA to help him develop the business. While providing him with full secretarial and social support you will also be expected to take decisions and operate as part of the management team.

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City Office
Tel: 726 8491

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The company, luxuriously based in Berkeley Square is one of the world's leaders in its field and the Managing Director needs a thoroughly experienced secretary. Very high skills (70/100 + audio) and a stable international career background are essential. You will assist him with many organisational aspects of his work, and much of which involves the development of the business. Maturity (probable age 30-40), education to degree or A level standard and a central London home to enable you to work long hours are important.

01-499 0092: 01-493 5907

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493 0045
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Expanding West London firm of Solicitors with five young partners seek a proven Personnel/Administration Officer capable of providing a comprehensive and effective range of support services.

The candidate will be expected to create, expand and improve disciplines in all areas of personnel recruitment and office administration and will be directly responsible to the partners. Applicants aged 24-45 must have had previous experience, preferably within a legal or professional background.

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Career minded P.A. £10,000 – £10,500 + mortgage

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Secretary required to work in the busy office of independent 6th form college in S. Kensington. General admin, audio, and WP. Lots of contact with parents and pupils. Salary in excess of £6,500.

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Financial/Ad Manager of international Agency, needs right hand assistant. Organisational abilities and sec skills a must. £10,000 neg.

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Experienced secretary required for woman partner, busy friendly solicitors (whose secretary of 12½ years, is having a baby). Commercial work, including entertainment industry. Good speeds plus ability to keep filing in order and deal with telephone work. Successful applicant likely to be 24+ and willing to take responsibility. Modern offices between Leicester Square and Covent Garden. Salary commensurate with age and experience. Contact Shireen Whelan on

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Our Operations Director is looking for a secretary 24+ who preferably has had Oil Company experience. Very attractive offices and a very attractive position for the person who enjoys being an 'Organised' secretary. Send an application with C.V. to

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Leading London Cosmetic surgery group requires experienced receptionist/telephonist/typist (45 wpm), for their busy Harley Street, consulting rooms with BT Herald switchboard. A pleasant telephone voice and personality essential. An opportunity to join a small team of professional people in an exciting growth industry. Age 25-40. Write with full C.V. to: Peter Giffin The Harley Medical Group, 6 Harley Street, London, W1N 1AA

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The ideal candidate should have relevant experience and an adaptable and flexible approach to their work.

Duties will include some secretarial work, some office administration and liaison with clients and other staff in the company.

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M. SMITH, Managing Director,
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Tel: 01-247 7356 after 9.30 am.

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Please telephone Lucinda Utley on

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or write with C.V. to
402 Drake House, Dolphin Sq SW1
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Secretary for West End Sales Office, of International Company. Customer liaison and admin work, some shorthand and typing, a knowledge of German would be useful. Salary negotiable according to experience plus benefits. For interview please phone:

01-499 8108 and ask for MR M. STEIN or MR M. SLOANE.

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required by small City Bank. Smart appearance, good telephone manner and adaptability essential. Sh/typing speeds 80/45 wpm. Age 20+ but could probably suit a more mature person. Good salary by arrangements. LVs.

Apply in writing only to:

FBI Financial Trust Limited
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London, EC2M 5PP

PA to Managing & Sales Directors in Putney

Office admin, telephone, sales, telex, computer, some typing but no shorthand req. would suit someone who is looking for a challenging job and who enjoys responsibility and has common sense. Non smoker pref. £7,800 p.a. negotiable.

Please telephone Belinda Rozalis 374 5000 or 870 5192 (no agencies)

ART GALLERY CORK STREET

seeks an experienced Senior Administrative Assistant. Full C.V. Please write to:-

Box 1486 T The Times

SECRETARY/PA

With Audio for Jermyn Street Accountancy/Dealer practice. Must be numerate, dependable, non-smoker. Salary £8,000 + neg.

Tel: Anne Cawkwell
930 5061

SECRETARY
£8,000 + perks

Top well known company are seeking to recruit the above to assist company sec. Your day will be varied and interesting and the ability to deal with matters of a confidential nature a must. You will be working in lovely offices based in NW1 and in return for your shorthand/typing skills and 'O' level education, you will be rewarded with 4 wks hol, interest free season ticket loan, 10% discount on goods, 30p 3 course meals and an extra day off on your birthday. Ring:

283 5914
Keystone agency

SHORTHAND SECRETARY

with strong personality to organise City property man. Office near Liverpool St. Early/mid 20's.

c£8,000.
Graham Neal 247 3639

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New challenging post for experienced Medical/Personal Secretary to busy Harley Street Surgeon. Diploma from Medical Secretaries and excellent references essential. Age 35 years plus. Salary £8,000 plus negotiable. Start mid April. Ring immediately for information 0691-655311 (Ext. 484 – Mrs Evans).

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Well-established advertising agency need outgoing public-school secretary (slow shorthand, good typing), to work for this busy account director and get really involved in his work. Excellent salary plus wonderful benefits.

LONDON TOWN STAFF BUREAU
836 1994

SURVEYORS/ ESTATE AGENTS

Expanding firm of W1 surveyors, require Audio Secretary (21-ish) to operate WP/computer system. Knowledge of WP preferred. Salary negotiable. Write with c.v. to:

Sally Gerasky
Farrell, Grant & Co.
62 Marylebone High Street
London W1M 3AF
(No Agencies)

Secretary/Administrator

Lots of variety working for 2 directors in a busy Oil-related company in Pimlico. WP and telex experience preferable. 9-5. £7,500+. Age 24+.

Call Debbie 01-828 8646

BELGRAVIA BUSINESS CENTRE

Opportunity for ambitious, personable and adaptable Secretary/PA to take charge of business. Generous salary and profit participation.

PLEASE CALL
730 8340

PA to MD

A friendly, important City based Life & Pension Broking Company has an opportunity for a career minded pa/secretary with shorthand for the Managing Director. This is an important senior position & applicants should possess a willingness to deal with new technology together with the maturity & experience to deal with clients at all levels. Attractive remuneration. Apply with CV to Box 0171 W The Times.

Are there still any good secretaries in London?

If so, phone Paul Davies or Miles Tomkins on

836 8333.

No agencies please.

Kensington Estate Agents

require personable, well spoken, efficient receptionist/audio typist for smart new office in W.8 close Kensington High Street underground. Good salary.

Tel. 938 2311

SECRETARY/PA

required for Managing Director, of bloodstock insurance agency, based London SW1. Ideal applicant should be shorthand typist, good at figures with knowledge of racing/breeding, some computer experience. Salary neg.

Reply to: Box 0565 R The Times

SEC PA TO MD

Sec PA required for small West End investment company. Usual secretarial skills (shorthand not necessary) together with experience of book keeping and P.A.Y.E. needed. Age 22-35. Salary £6,500 plus excellent benefits. please phone Maggie Brooks on:

499 4501

SECRETARY
For Financial Manager

Attractive Mayfair Office. Bright well-spoken 20-23-year-old preferred, sh required, attractive salary & bonus.

Charlotte Baker
408 2414

20th CENTURY ART GALLERY
ST JAMES'S
c £8,500

Efficient Sec/PA with good SH and fast, accurate typing, also good computer experience to work with 2 directors. Age 20-30, driving licence/languages useful, sense of humour essential. Start ASAP.

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Management Secretary

The Managing Director of a large manufacturing company is looking for a Management Secretary to help in his efficient and smoothly run office.

The post involves a wide and varied range of duties, with contact at director and senior management levels both inside and outside the company.

The necessary requirements include education to degree standard and a diploma or equivalent in secretarial/personal assistant skills, together with a lively personality and enthusiasm and the ability to work with discretion in a confidential environment.

The appointment will be based locally in the Harlow/Bishop's Stortford area. An excellent salary of between £7500 & £9500, depending on experience, is offered plus a wide range of benefits.

If you have the relevant qualifications, are a non-smoker and would like to take advantage of this career opportunity, please send full details to T. G. Scott and Son Limited, Ref: 834, 30-32 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HR. Please state companies to which you do not want your application sent.

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We are offering a salary of £7,500–£9,000 per annum according to age and experience, together with an excellent benefits package which includes a subsidised mortgage, non-contributory pension scheme, free medical cover and generous luncheon voucher allowance. There are good prospects for career development.

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Mayfair
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The newly appointed Managing Director of this small but expanding company needs a bright and confident Sec/PA to help him set up his office. This would suit someone with a good solid CV (preferably with some personnel related experience) and who will enjoy all aspects of running a busy office. Aged 25+. Speeds 100/60.

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Experience in property management or desire to learn would be appreciated. This is a small, friendly office where personality, drive and appearance are also prime considerations. Negotiable salary c. £11,000 per annum.

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A top firm of International Bankers seeks a team spirited young secretary to join them. Excellent benefits include a large cash lunch allowance, generous mortgage subsidy, paid overtime, salary review in 3 months and membership to a prestigious health club. 2 years secretarial experience needed and 80/60 skills.

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PRESTIGIOUS PR £7,500 neg
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We are looking for a self-motivated, personable secretary to act as Personal Assistant to the Managing Director.

In addition to first class secretarial skills, you will need to have the confidence and ability to cope with numerous enquiries from business houses and Government Departments, take minutes at executive meetings and deal with some administrative matters. Preferred minimum age, 25. Salary c. £10,000. Located at Hounslow close to Central Line station.

If you feel that you are the person for this demanding but very interesting job, please write, in strict confidence, enclosing CV and quoting ref. 302, to Mrs Lynda Kennedy.

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Senior Secretaries
Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY

required for the Advertisement Director of major medical journal publishers. Good shorthand and typing, together with the ability to work independently essential. The successful applicant will also undertake secretarial duties for other members of the sales team. Age 21– Hours 9.30 to 5.30. Salary £8000, negotiable, and benefits include private health scheme and interest-free season ticket loan.

Please apply in writing with c.v. to:– Mrs. S. Ridler, The Update Group Ltd., 33-34 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7DP.

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The Legal Services Officers requires a hard working Secretary, whose duties will include audio-typing of general correspondence, minutes and reports dealing with telephone enquiries from the public and requests for Legal Aid literature, maintaining distribution lists and other tasks which may be delegated from time to time.

The successful applicant will be a fast accurate audio/typist (min 60 wpm), well-organized and efficient. Ability to operate a Wangwriter Word Processor, or willingness to learn is essential.

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Leading Arts sponsorship company needs a bright enthusiastic secretary to become part of their small efficient operation.
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A-level education essential, French or German useful.

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Screen Entertainment

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Please send concise career details to:
Marion Shindler, Personnel Officer,

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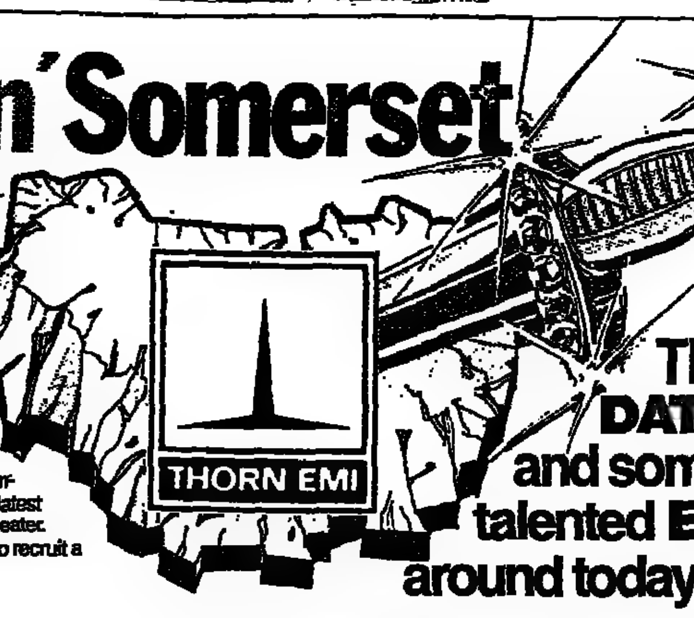

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The Mill, Wookey Hole, Nr. Wells, Somerset.
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THE DAVIS COMPANY LIMITED

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Please contact David Roberts quoting relevant reference no.

13/14 Dean Street, London W1V 5AH. Telephone: 01-437 3344

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Partnership Secretary

Partner Status — Solicitors
City — To £35K

Our client is a substantial firm of solicitors with an established City presence, overseas offices and a total staffing of around 250 people. They require an exceptional person to take charge of all financial and administrative affairs of the business and act as its partnership secretary.

Reporting to the Executive Partner, the successful candidate will be building upon an established and respected role at a time of rapid change and development.

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Peter Childs, Director,
Pannell Kerr Forster,
New Garden House,
78 Hatton Garden,
London EC1N 8JA.

Pannell Kerr Forster Associates
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MECHANICAL ENGINEERING LABORATORY
Cambridge Road
Whetstone
Leicester LE8 3LH
or Telephone: Leicester (0533) 863434 Ext. 3601

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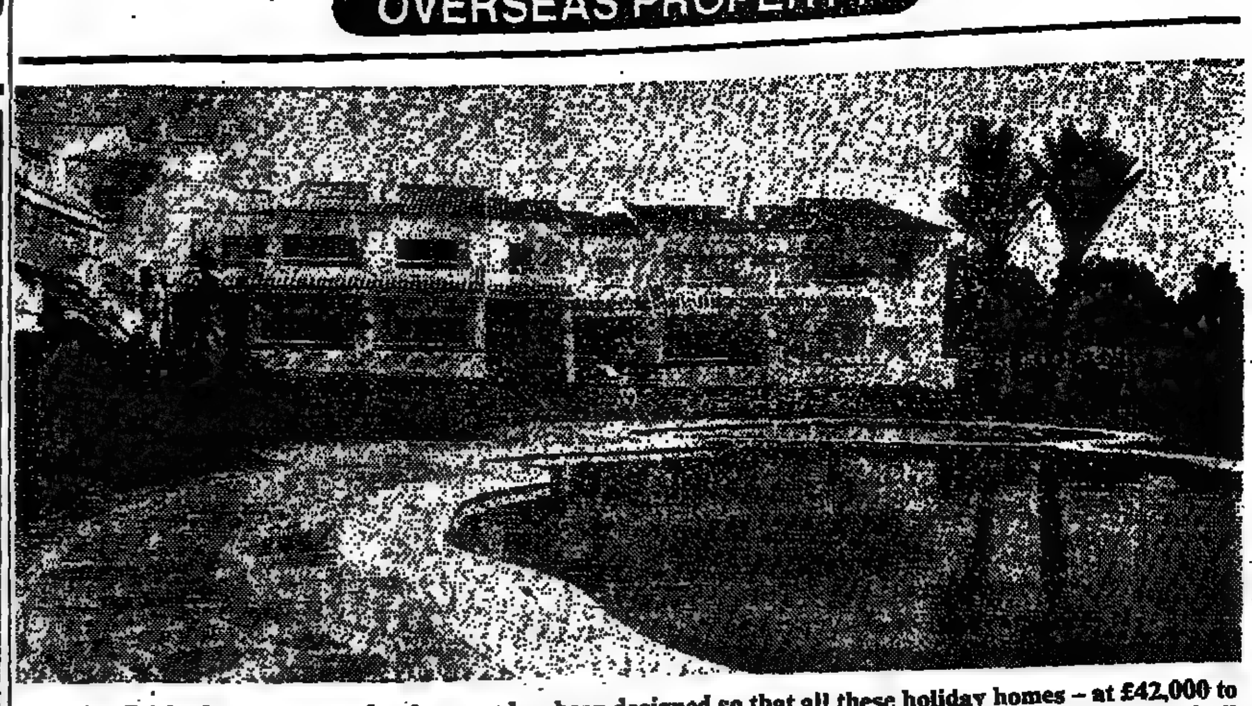

The Las Gardenias apartment development has been designed *so that all these holiday homes* – at £42,000 to £42,500 – face south. Ideally suited to the sportsman, there are seven golf courses within easy reach and all purchasers are given a three-year free membership to a golf discount scheme.

Spain may still be in your range

By Diana Wildman

The weakness of sterling against even minor European currencies is yet another factor in the flat market for leisure-home buying on Costa del Sol. Today the pound is worth about 200 pesetas as against 230 a year ago.

Other factors include the rising crime rate and more significantly, the phenomenal rise in prices in the Marbella area. Around Puerto Banus, a unit costs more to buy than a comparable one in central London. There are, however, still some reasonably priced middle-range properties. Warrior Estates are the UK agents for Las Gardenias, a development of 69 garden apartments being built in three phases on a 2½-acre site eight miles west of Marbella. The low-rise apartment blocks are grouped around two swimming pools, one of which is heated and has an adjacent Jacuzzi. There should be no further building as the area is designated "green zone".

The apartments have fitted kitchens and include a double sink, *fridge/freezer*, split-level cooker, washing machine and marble flooring throughout. Accommodation comprises two bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, two bathrooms. Either a sun terrace or patio extends the width of the master bedroom and sitting room.

Phase 1 is sold out. The unsold six units of the 24 in phase 2 are ready for occupation and cost £42,000 for the upper floor or £42,500 for the ground-floor apartments. Phase 3, due for completion by Easter, has 11 of 18 units still available, costing £43,500 for the upper-floor homes and £44,000 for the ground-floor level. Phase 3 also contains a couple of three-bedroom apartments for sale at £49,500. Virtually opposite Las Gardenias is the established Benemara Estate. Which has 200 houses and duplexes built between pine trees around a big central swimming pool. Warrior Estates are handling a number of resales here, including a two-bedroom, two-bathroom fully furnished duplex at £47,000 and a three-bedroom townhouse for £55,000. Resales can be good value because prices have shot up so much recently the owner is often able to sell at a profit for a sum much less than a new unit.

An added purchase incentive at *Benemara is its new million-pound* sports complex due for completion later this year. The five squash courts will be ready in June and other facilities include a heated swimming pool, gymnasium, tennis and sauna. Membership will be available on weekly or annual.

A solicitor specializing in Spanish law should always be consulted, especially with *resales*. Potential buyers need to know that their prospective homes have been *properly registered*. Otherwise the official transfer of title could be inexorably delayed.

Inland from Puerto Banus, on the Nueva Andalusia estate, are the Agrupada garden apartments, built 10 years ago in groups of 20 – each group overlooking a swimming pool. Warrior Estates have a few resales here: £35,000 for the two-bedroom, one-bathroom, *first-floor units* and £42,500 for the ground-floor apartments.

Contact Warrior Estates at 2a Hasker Street, London SW3 2LG (tel: 01-581 8021) for details.

Wimpeys, through their Spanish subsidiary, Beyre y Wimpey SA, are building their first Costa del Sol development a mile or so inland from Marbella in the foothills of the Sierra Blanca. They are being marketed in the UK by Sturgis International.

El Vivero de Marbella will consist of 52 one and two bedroom Andalusian-style apartments. They are now being built in four phases, clustered around a swimming pool with views to the Mediterranean. The flats have fully fitted kitchens with a choice of gas or electric cooking and the price includes a covered parking space. For one bedroom units, £39,000; the two bedroom, two bathroom apartments £48,000.

Details: Sturgis, 61 Park Lane, London W1Y 3TF (01-493 1693).

Of course, the selection of properties in the £100,000 bracket is simply vast but even this price level does not necessarily guarantee a luxuriously well-finished home. However, John Green, developer of El Ancon Sierra, built on a sloping site within Las Lomas de Marbella Club estate, has managed to incorporate a feeling of opulent spaciousness achieved by building wide entrance halls and staircases and using marble throughout. Of an original 50 homes, 12 remain for sale and are ready for occupation. They are a mix of one, two and three bedroom apartments and three *three-bedroom* town houses. Prices: £85,000 for the *only one-bedroom* unit, from £105,000 for the three *bathrooms and £165,000 for the* three-bedroom town houses are from £137,000.

Details from Euro Property Advisors, in association with Winkworth & Co, 27a New Street, Salisbury SP1 2PH (0722 330847), Fincasol Ltd, 4 Bridge Street, Salisbury SP1 2LX (0722 26444), Chestertons Overseas, 116 Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-937 7244).

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RENTALS

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also on page 34

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Once it was the home of Ramsay Mac

■ A large house in Frognal, Hampstead, once the home of Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, is to be let for £1,200 a week by George Knight and Partners. The semi-detached house was built around 1750, and is to be let for two to three years. It has been extensively renovated.

Accommodation includes five double bedrooms and three bathrooms, and a fine first-floor drawing room overlooking the garden and leading to a conservatory with a vine which yielded 200 bunches of grapes last year.

■ The Beeches, Church Street, Staines, is a Grade II listed 18th-century house which includes grazing rights to the local moor for the owner's animals. With two or three reception rooms and four main bedrooms, it is for sale through John D. Wood, at around £147,000.

Classic Tudor

■ Aubyns, overlooking Writtle Green, Chelmsford, a classic Tudor aisled hall house dating from about 1500, is one of only six Grade I listed buildings in Chelmsford. It is thought to have been originally built as a shop, and though it has been restored and refashioned over the centuries, it has many typical Tudor features, including two roofs of the period. The half-timbered building has three reception rooms and four bedrooms and needs some modernization.

The house has gardens at front and back, and the joint agents, Strutt and Parker and Taylor and Company (through their Chelmsford offices) are asking £135,000.

■ Dunsley Hall, near Sandsend, Whitby, North Yorkshire, is a country mansion built around 1900 for the family of a shipping magnate with a grand carriage entrance and features which reflect a period of affluence. At present in five suites which could easily revert to the original state, it is for sale at £300,000 through McCartney Estates of Odiham, Hampshire.

Country house

■ Welches, Bentley, Hampshire, is a fine country house dating mainly from the Georgian and Regency periods, set in grounds of about nine acres and containing a three-bedroom cottage. Lane Fox and Partners, of North Audley Street, London W1, are seeking more than £350,000 for the property, which has outbuildings, loose boxes, two paddocks and a tennis court.

The house, which is approached through wrought iron gates, has three reception rooms, eight bedrooms, a dressing room and three bathrooms.

Iver Lodge, Iver, Buckinghamshire, is a grand Georgian house set in 19 acres of gardens and parkland, some of which is used as a deer park. Of brick, with ornate coursing, the house was originally a farmhouse, extended in the 1780s. It has been completely renovated by the present owners, and the elegant accommodation includes five large reception rooms, seven bedrooms and five bathrooms. Among the outbuildings are two cottages, a stable yard and barns. The joint agents, Knight Frank and Rutley and Savills are seeking offers of more than £1 million.

Blooming stories

The fact that the presence of a garden, however small, is mentioned on all details of houses prepared by estate agents or house-owners themselves demonstrates its importance.

Just as houses are described in glowing terms which may stretch the imagination of the prospective buyer comparing the bricks and mortar with their details in the brochure, so the garden is given suitable treatment to show that it is ideal or "potentially" ideal.

Agents spend some of their most creative time coining the exact phrase. My award goes to an example from Launceston, Cornwall, which is built on the side of a hill. A picture showed a house for sale, standing in its grounds and perched at a precarious angle. Not to be defeated, the writer of the details described the garden as "relatively level".

Regardless of the description, it was a suitable case for landscaping, and it is worth passing on advice from the Consumers' Association contained in its *Gardening from Which?* magazine.

Ignoring anything that the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget may have contained to change the situation, help may be available. If your mortgage, including any home-improvement loans, is below £30,000 and you are a taxpayer, it might be worth asking your bank or building society for a loan to improve your garden, the magazine says.

Money borrowed for hard landscaping, walls, paving and buildings will classify as a home-improvement loan, and, so long as you keep your borrowing within the £30,000 threshold, all the interest on the loan will be eligible for tax relief. Plants and items such as cold frames, tools and other consumables should not, however, be included in the loan.

For their report, *Gardening from Which?* asked six mail-order garden design services, costing between £20 and £80.50, to design the same garden on a new housing estate.

All six, according to the report, missed important points. It was clear from written descriptions and photographs sent to them that the garden was on heavy clay soil with bad drainage.

Each of the designers recommended planting between £250 and £650 worth of plants, many of which were unsuitable for clay soils and would either die or be unlikely to thrive.

Moving earth and building retaining walls is hard work if you do it yourself and expensive if someone else does it, and the report says that careful thought is necessary to decide whether it is really necessary – whether or not you can get a loan.

Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM...£4.00 a line (minimum 3 lines)

Announcements authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to:

THE TIMES
200 Gray's Inn Road
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or telephoned (by telephone subscribers only) to: 01-837 3311 or 01-837 3333. Funeral Directors' Direct Line: 01-278 9166 or 01-278 9167.

Announcements can be received by telephone between 9.00am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, on Saturday between 9.00am and 12.00noon. (837 3311 only). For publication the following day, phone by 1.30pm.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, etc. on Court and Social Page, £6 a line.

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...WHICH of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? St Luke 14: 28.

BIRTHS

BAKKE – On 15th March in Oslo to Josephine (née Blackburne-Kane) and Bjorn, a daughter, Emilie, a sister for William.

BRISTOW. – On February 27th, at the Louise Margaret Maternity Hospital, Aldershot, to Celia and Anthony – a son (Richard Anthony Johan), a brother for Paul, Adrian and Gregory. With many thanks to the staff of the Special Care Baby Unit.

CURRIE – On March 14, 1985, to Diana (née Bolton) and Philip, a son, Tom Hamilton, a brother for Joanna and Katie.

DEATHS

SAVILLE. – On March 17 at Charing Cross Hospital, after a short illness, Harry Lionel, son of Sarah, widower of Diana and greatly loved father of Martin. Service in the Bedford Chapel of Golders Green Crematorium, at 1.40pm, Monday, March 25, 1985. Enquiries and flowers to J. H. Kenyon Ltd, 83 Westbourne Grove, London, W2. Tel: 229 9861. Donations to Charing Cross Hospital Scanner Appeal.

SHEAD – On March 14th at her home in Sussex, after a long illness borne with great courage, Ann in her 79th year. Author and former BBC producer. Cremation private.

VACLAVIK.–On March 16th, Florence Joan, dearly loved wife of Zdenek and mother of Pam and Alex. Cremation on Friday, March 22nd at Putney Vale Crematorium, SW15. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund.

VICKERY – On the 17th March, Norah, in her 86th year, formerly of Crown Lane Gardens SW16 and lately of 47 Mayow Road SE23, much loved mother of Tony, Ken, Jean and Ann. Requiem Mass at the Church of St Philip Neri, Sydenham SE26 on Friday 22nd March at 3.15pm followed by burial at Streatham Park Cemetary at 4.30pm.

WILLIAMS – March 17th 1985, Harry Aston Williams D.F.M., after a brief illness. Retired chief finance official, Craigavon Development Commission. Deeply regretted by his wife Anne, son Edward and family. If desired, donations in lieu of flowers, to R.A.F. ex p.o.w. Association, c/o Miss L Magahy, Northern Bank Ltd, 45 High Street, Portadown, Northern Ireland.

WILSON, TONY – Suddenly on March 17, at home in Flackwell Heath, Bucks. Beloved husband of Irana. Funeral service Friday, March 22, 11am. The Chilterns, Amersham. Flowers to C. Smith (Wooburn) Ltd.

WOSTEAR – On 18th March, peacefully at Mountbatten Nursing Home, Taunton, Percy Leonard Wostear O.B.E., A.M.I.E.E. of Tower Cottage, Chilton Polden, Bridgwater. Much loved husband of the late Evelyn and father of Phyllis and Daphne.

YEATS – On 17th March, 1985, suddenly in hospital, Gerald Yeats ...

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IN MEMORIAM (WAR)

IN MEMORIAM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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DEATHS

RUSHTON – On March 17, 1985, peacefully at Eastbourne, Sussex, Phyllis, widow of J. L. Rushton, of Barnacre Lodge, Garstang, Lancashire, aged 101 years. Funeral service at St Saviour's Church, Eastbourne, on Friday, March 22, at 11am. Interment at All Saints Church, Barnacre on Tuesday March 26 at 2.30pm. No flowers, but donations to the Vicar, All Saints Vicarage, Barnacre, nr Garstang, Preston, or St Wilfrids Hospice, 2 Mill Gap Road, Eastbourne.

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EXHIBITIONS

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also on page 35

صكام الاحل

هكذا من الاصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM.

6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25, 8.55 and 9.18; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; national and international news with Debbie Rix at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 7.20, 7.45 and 8.20; Nicky Henson reviews the morning newspapers at 8.37. Plus, Mike Smith with the new Top Twenty at 7.32, d-i-y advice and healthy eating hints. Roy Hattersley comments on the Budget. Other guests include actor Peter Jeffrey.

9.20 Ceefax. 10.30 Play School presented by Carol Leader (r).

10.50 Gharbar. Magazine programme for Asian women. The plight of battered wives is discussed in this week's edition. Among those taking part is Tirath Flora of the Asian Resource Centre in London. 11.15 Ceefax.

12.30 News After Noon with Michael Cole and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Bill Giles. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles).

1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes the first in a new series 'Chef's Special' presented by Michael Smith. His guest is Katie Stewart. Other guests in the programme include Lionel Blair and Jo Ann Pickens. 1.45 King Rollo (r). 1.50 Bric-a-Brac, presented by Brian Cant (r).

2.00 International Snooker. Wales against Australia in the Guinness World Cup from the Bournemouth International Centre. Introduced by David Icke. 3.48 Regional news (not London).

3.50 Play School, presented by Chloe Ashcroft with guest Stuart Bradley. 4.10 The Wombles (r). 4.15 The Puppy's New Adventures. Cartoon series about a puppy searching for his owner.

4.35 Jackanory. Rosemary Leach with part three of Uninvited Guests, by Penelope Lively. 4.50 Captain Caveman. 5.00 Newsround with Paul McDowell.

5.10 Seaview. Part five of the six-episode serial. 5.35 Grange Hill. Episode ten and a new classmate for Gonch means trouble (Ceefax).

6.00 News with Nicholas Witchell and Jeremy Paxman. Weather.

6.35 London Plus.

7.00 Wogan. Terry Wogan's guests are David Steel, Bruce Oldfield, Barry McGuigan and Studs Terkel. Music is provided by Jean-Michel Jarre.

7.40 Monkey Business. Natural history quiz. The team captains, Jeremy Cherfas and Floella Benjamin, are joined by Lynsey De Paul, Mike Smith, Neil Innes and Sheila Anderson.

8.10 The Two Ronnies. Comedy sketches featuring Messrs Barker and Corbett including a spy thriller, Tinker Tailor Smiley Doyle. The guest is Elaine Paige.

9.00 News with Julia Somerville.

9.25 The Budget. The shadow Chancellor, Roy Hattersley, for the Opposition.

9.35 Q.E.D.: The 300 Million Years War. A documentary about the endless conflict between insects and plants. Biologist John Lawton has begun a search for the bizarre defences of plants and has discovered that some are experts in chemical warfare.

10.05 Sportsnight, introduced by Harry Carpenter. Highlights from one of tonight's European competition football matches involving a British club. Plus, international snooker from Bournemouth where England A, led by Steve Davis, begin their defence of the Guinness World Cup with a game against Scotland.

TV-am

6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.16, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00 and 9.22; sport at 6.39 and 7.37; exercises at 6.50 and 9.19; Popeye cartoon at 7.23; pop music at 7.54; video report at 8.40; advice on garden ornaments at 9.03. The guests are Pia Zadora, David Shilling and Rowena Wallace.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 London news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: For parents and teachers. 9.35 Things that puzzle children. 9.47 Supermarket switches and laser scanners. 10.21 The Watched, a play by Christopher Priest. 10.48 The problems of job-hunting. 11.10 The craft of the potter. 11.22 Part one of a Russian version of Thumbelina. 11.39 Life in the 1920s.

12.00 Button Moon. Puppet adventures of the Spoon family. For the very young. 12.10 Our Backyard. Peter helps Jean to build a rabbit house (r) 12.30 Mr and Mrs. Quiz game show for married couples.

1.00 News at One and weather. 1.20 Thames news with Robin Houston. 1.30 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in an Australian outback town. 2.25 Home Cookery Club. The recipe for Coffee 'n' Ginger Souffle.

2.30 On the Market. Susan Brookes and Trevor Hyett with the week's best food buys. The guest cook is Anita Harris. 3.00 Gems. Drama serial set in the Covent Garden workrooms of a fashion design company 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 Sons and Daughters.

4.00 Button Moon. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 Batfink does battle with the Human Pretzel. 4.20 Do It. Sheelagh Gilbey with more ideas to stimulate children's creative instincts (Oracle). 4.45 Freggle Rock. Adventures of a group of creatures who live underneath a lighthouse.

5.15 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers.

5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news.

6.25 Help! Viv Taylor Gee with news of CancerLink, a cancer self-help group.

6.35 Crossroads. David Hunter is aghast at what he learns when he visits Sarah Alexander.

7.00 Wish Your Were Here . . . ? Chris Kelly is in Antibes; Anneka Rice in northern Queensland; and Judith Chalmers on the beautiful Suffolk coast (Oracle).

7.30 Coronation Street. Bet Lynch's foray into high society is threatened by a dress problem (Oracle).

8.00 This is Your Life. Eamonn Andrews emotionally hijacks another surprised worthy.

8.30 There Comes a Time . . . Comedy series starring Andrew Sachs and Judy Cornwall (Oracle).

9.00 The Last Place on Earth. The penultimate episode of the drama serial about Captain Scott's and Roald Amudsen's race to the South Pole (Oracle). (See Choice).

10.00 News at Ten and weather followed by Thames news headlines.

10.30 Budget 85. The shadow Chancellor, Roy Hattersley, replies on behalf of the Opposition.

10.40 Film: Death Wish (1974) starring Charles Bronson. Thriller about a New York businessman who takes the law into his own hands after his wife and daughter are brutally beaten-up by three muggers. Directed by Michael Winner.

12.25 Night Thoughts from Dr Roger Williamson.

First men at the South Pole: ITV, 9.00pm

● Not surprisingly, in a week that has seen its British première, David Lean's film of *A Passage to India* crops up in BOOKMARK (BBC2, 8.10pm). The item is not complimentary about Lean's big movie, but the criticism is mild compared with the verdict handed down by the guest critic in Monday night's *Kaleidoscope* on Radio 4 who found hardly anything to say in its favour. *Bookmark*, being BBC Television's principal forum for bibliophiles, is of course performing its proper function in swinging the focus of attention back to Forster and away from Lean. Thus, we get the correct context in which *A Passage to India* can be assessed. The literary comment is important because it illustrates how serious are the liberties that Lean has taken with the book. But we need the biographical content of tonight's

CHOICE

Bookmark if we are fully to understand how great was the impact of India on Forster and why he had to abandon his original conception of a book that would act as "a little bridge of sympathy between East and West".

● THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH (ITV, 9.00pm) has reached its penultimate episode. Tonight, both Amundsen and Scott reach the South Pole, the big difference is that the Norwegians start the journey back with triumph in their hearts and celebratory cigars at jaunty angles between their lips, while the bitter British have to drag their second-class achievement behind them, along with their collection of Antarctic rocks. Scott's leadership qualities, minimal from the very first pages of Trevor Griffiths's script, are even less in evidence tonight as he slumps, sobbing, into Wilson's arms and Petty Officer Evans shouts at him that he couldn't find his way through a garden gate.

● Radio highlights: David Wheeler's examination of the acrid row between Whitehall and Liverpool over local government spending (Analysis, Radio 4, 8.45pm); the Woman's Hour interview with the unclassifiable singing trio Fascinating Aida, who will doubtless fill in some of the serious gaps in a recent *Forty Minutes* documentary about them (Radio 4, 2.00pm); and the 1984 Salzburg Festival production of Berio's two-part musical action, Un re in ascolto (Radio 3, 9.05pm). This was a world première.

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

6.30 Open University: Living with Technology: Sound in View. 6.55 Interpreting a Dream. Ends at 7.20. 9.00 Ceefax.

9.38 Daytime on Two: Science – stiff shapes. 10.00 For the very young. 10.15 Maths: three dimensions. 10.38 Statistics: hypothesis testing. 11.00 Words and pictures: monsters. 11.17 Music and dance. 11.39 Can a biographer learn the truth about his subject?

12.05 Russians and their language. 12.30 The role of members of Parliament. 12.55 Learning English from watching popular television programmes. 1.21 Spanish conversation. 1.38 Carnivorous insects. 2.00 Tastes. 2.18 Made in Britain. 2.40 Bicycles and cars (Ceefax). 3.00 Ceefax.

3.50 International Snooker. The Guinness World Cup match between Wales and Australia from the Bournemouth International Centre. The commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Karnehm and Clive Everton.

5.30 News summary with subtitles. Weather.

5.35 Arthur Negus Enjoys Stanway House, Gloucestershire, in the company of Hugo Morley-Fletcher. Together they admire the house's collection of porcelain from England, Europe and the Orient (r).

6.00 Film: Run of the Arrow (1957) starring Rod Steiger and Brian Keith. Western adventure about a Confederate army man who, after the Civil War, joins a Sioux tribe. Directed by Samuel Fuller.

7.25 Open Space: Advocacy. Michael Mansfield argues on behalf of pensioners, businessmen, the unemployed and ethnic minorities, who believe they are excluded from the process of local government.

8.10 Bookmark presented by Ian Hamilton. Graham Greene's The Tenth Man, E. M. Forster's A Passage to India, and Pamela, by Samuel Richardson, are examined. (see Choice).

9.00 Film: Hollywood Cowboy (1975) starring Jeff Bridges and Blythe Danner. Comedy about the makers of Hollywood westerns during the Thirties. A strong supporting cast includes Andy Griffith, Donald Pleasance and Alan Arkin. Directed by Howard Zieff.

10.40 The Budget. The shadow Chancellor, Roy Hattersley, on behalf of the Opposition.

10.50 Newsnight. The latest national and international news with extended coverage of one of the main stories of the day.

11.35 Weather.

11.40 House of Lords Debate. Highlights of the debate on the Official Secrets Act.

11.55 Animation Now. Jumping, written and directed by Osamu Tezuka.

12.05 Open University: Electronics: Frequency Response. 12.30 Biology: Enzyme Structure and Function. Ends at 12.55.

CHANNEL 4

2.30 A Plus 4. Paul Jones talks to actor James Fox about his career.

3.00 Their Lordships' House. Glyn Mathias introduces live coverage of the debate at the House of Lords brought by the Alliance parties for the repeal of section 2 of the Official Secrets Act. Lord Wigoder, Liberal, opens for the Alliance and Lord Elwyn-Jones leads for the Government.

6.00 Countdown.

6.30 The Living Body. Part 24 of the 26-programme series on the inner workings of the human body is a follow-up to last week's programme about mother-to-be Sally Neville. This evening's programme shows the events in Sally's body as her child is born.

7.00 Channel Four News presented by Trevor Macdonald includes a report by Nicholas Owen on the prospects of a revolution in Fleet Street.

7.50 Comment. This week's political slot is filled by Jeremy Hanley, Conservative MP for Richmond and Barnes. Weather.

8.00 The Dragon Has Two Tongues. Part 11 of the 13-programme history of Wales from two different standpoints examines the period during the early part of this century when industrial South Wales was booming. But the period also included the Tonypandy riots, the Penrhyn lock-out and an unprecedented upsurge of interest in Marxism. Professor Gwyn Alf Williams believes that socialism was the driving force of the flourishing Welsh industry; Wynford Vaughan-Thomas disagrees and puts the case for liberalism.

8.30 Diverse Reports: Eat Your Words. Reporter Christine Chapman examines the myths about healthy eating and comes to the conclusion that the evidence for putting high fat, high sugar, processed foods on the dangerous list, does not exist.

9.00 Vision. This month's edition of the magazine programme on the world's cinema includes items on Fellini's favourite cameraman, Peppino Rotunno; on Chilean director, Raul Ruiz; and clips from Pavlova, A Passage to India, Francesco Rosi's Carmen and Dance With a Stranger.

10.00 Film: Another Way (1979). The final film of the short Hungarian season is a drama about a love affair between two women, one of them married, set againt the political turmoil that followed Hungary's 1956 uprising. Directed by Karoly Makk.

12.00 Book Four. Hermione Lee and her guests, Martin Amis, Margaret Forster and Humphry Carpenter discuss Michael Scammell's biography of Solzhenitsyn; Patricia Ferguson's first novel, Family Myths and Legends; and the The Engineer of Human Souls, by Josef Skvorecky.

12.30 Dadarama. Cumbrae Clyde.

12.40 Closedown.

Radio 4

On long wave. † also VHF stereo.

5.55 Shipping 6.00 News Briefing; Weather. 6.10 Farming. 6.25 Prayer

6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News, 6.45 Business News. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather; Travel.

9.00 News.

9.05 Money Box Budget Call: 01-580 4411. A chance to discuss yesterday's Budget proposals with Louise Botting, Vincent Duggleby, Christopher Gilchrist and Philip Hardman (lines open from 8.00am).

10.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time visits Avon.

10.30 Morning Story: "Ring-a-din-ding" by Nan Woodhouse. Reader: Elizabeth Spriggs.

10.45 Daily Service (from the Chapel of Unity, Methodist College, Belfast).

11.00 News; Travel; Richard Lewis at 70. The tenor in conversation with David Hoult (r).

11.48 What's in a Name. Second of six programmes presented by Dennis Owen.

12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer affairs with John Howard.

12.27 Gold of the Conquerors. James Hamilton (Steve Hodson) finds a body on the beach that's got a bullet through his head He suspects foul play – but the police think otherwise. Second part of a six-part serial by Colin Shaw (r).† 12.55 Weather.

1.00 The World at One: News.

1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping.

2.00 News; Woman's Hour. Includes an interview with the satirical singing trio Fascinating Aida. And Sara Squires reads the first instalment of The Private World of Georgette Heyer, by Jane Aiken Hodge.

3.00 The Afternoon Play: Quids In, Seconds Out by John McKenzie. With Gerard Kelly. A fight is arranged for a young unemployed schoolteacher, who with a wife and child to support, tries his hand at amateur boxing. With Jennifer Angus.†

3.47 Time for Verse (5). American Indians. Presented by Charles Tomlinson.

4.00 News; File on 4.

4.40 Short Story: "Jennings in Particular" by Anthony Buckeridge. Abridged in nine episodes (2). Read by the author.

5.00 PM: News Magazine. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather.

6.00 The Six O'Clock News; incl Financial Report.

6.30 Just a Minute with Kenneth Williams, Clement Freud, Derek Nimmo and Sheila Hancock.†

7.00 News.

7.05 The Archers.

7.20 Riding with the Boys. Actress Carole Boyd plays the younger Margaret Harrison who died at the age of 91 in 1983. She was better known as Margaret 'Tim' Harrison

7.45 Books of the Century. Derek Parker talks to Claire Rayner about Kenneth Graham's The Wind in the Willows.

8.15 A Sound of Revelry by Night by Alison Plowden. Memories of the eve of the Battle of Waterloo.†

8.45 Analysis. Liverpool v Whitehall. The row over council spending.

9.30 The Alternative Diplomacy. The dilemmas facing British diplomacy in the next decade. With Simon Jenkins.

9.45 Kaleidoscope. Includes comment on the play In Times Like These, at the New Vic, Bristol.

10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'The Rich Mrs Robinson' by Winifred Beechey Abridged in 10 episodes (3). Reader: Pauline Letts 10.29 Weather.

10.30 The World Tonight, including The Budget. 10.40 Roy Hattersley, MP, for the Opposition. 11.00 Headlines.

11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00-12.15 News. Weather. 12.33 Shipping. VHF (available in England and S Wales only) – Radio 4 vhf is as above, except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel 11.00-12.00 For Schools: 11.00 Singing Together (19). 11.20 Junior Drama Workshop. 11.40 Contact. 11.55 Topic Songbook (9). 1.55-3.00 For Schools: 1.55 Listening Corner. 2.05 Something to Think About. 2.15 Quest: The Power of the Story. 2.35 Pictures in Your Mind (Music). 2.45 Nature. 5.50-5.55 PM (contd). 11.00 Study On 4: When Language. 11.30-12.10 Open University: 11.30 Modern Art: Pissarro. 11.50 The Parents' Centre. 12.30-1.10am Schools Night-time Broadcasting: Making Work. 5: Help. 6: Finding Out.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.

7.05 Your Midweek Choice: Salieri's Concerto in C major for flute, oboe and orchestra (Adeney/Brown/ECO under Bonynge): Tchaikovsky's Dumka, Op 59 (Ashkenazy, piano): Gershwin's Catfish Row (Porgy and Bess), played by Weissenberg, piano, and Berlin PO under Ozawa. 18.00 News.

8.05 Your Midweek Choice (cont): Whittaker's arrangement of Blow the wind southerly (Ferrier, contralto). Shostakovich's Romance (Gadfly), played by USSR State SO under Svetlanov; Schumann's Fantasie in C major, Op 17 (Brendel, piano); Sibelius's suite Belshazzar's Feast OP 51 (Leningrad PO under Rozhdestvensky). 19.00 News.

9.05 This Week's Composers: William Schuman and Virgil Thomson. The former's A Song of Orpheus (Rose, cello, and Cleveland Orchestra under Szell); and the latter's Five Songs from William Blake (Herford, baritone, Bowman, piano); and his suite The Plow that broke the Plains (Los Angeles CO under Marriner). †

10.00 Mozart: Zoltan Kocsis (piano) with the Vienna Philharmonic under Abbado plays the Piano Concerto No 25. From the 1984 Salzburg Festival. †

10.35 John Ward. The Consort of Musicke, under Rooley, perform Madrigals from manuscript. Including If heavn's juste wrath; Cor mio; and Well soundinge pipes. †

11.05 BBCScottish SO (under Seaman). With Rosemary Eliot (flute). Philip Hill (oboe). Elgar's overture Froissart; A C Mackenzie's Benedictus; Holst's Fugal Concerto: George Butterworth's The Banks of Green Willow; Tippett's Ritual Dances (The Midsummer Marriage). †

12.15 Concert Hall: Jonathan Williams (horn) and Caroline Palmer (piano). Hindemith's Sonata for alto-horn and piano; Francaix's Divertimento; Poulenc's Elegie; and Glazunov's Reverie. 11.00 News.

1.05 Jazz: with Joe Pass (guitar) and Zoot Sims (tenor sax). Includes Poor Butterfly.

1.30 Matinee Musicale: BBC Concert Orchestra (under Lawrence) with Dinah Harris (soprano) and Gordon Stewart (piano). Strauss's overture Die Fledermaus; Canteloube's Three Songs of the Auvergne: Walton's suite from the film Henry V (arranged by Matheson); Messager's Petite dinde (Véronique); Rossignol (Monsieur Beaucaire); Weinberger's Polka; Dvorak's two Folk Songs Op 73; and Richard Strauss's Rosenkavalier waltzes. †

2.30 Keyboard Instrument Series: Malcolm Bilson (fortepiano) plays Mozart's Sonata in F, K 533/K 494. Beethoven's Sonata quasi una fantasia in E flat Op 27 No 1. †

3.15 Music for The Tempest: Purcell's overture The Tempest (Monteverdi Orchestra under Gardiner: Sibelius's The Tempest suites 1 and 2 (Hungarian State SO under Jalas). †

4.00 Choral Evensong: from Wells Cathedral – live; 4.55 News.

5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: another Roger Nichols's selectons of recorded music. †

6.30 Debut: The Roth String Quartet play Mendelssohn's Quartet in D Op 44 No 1. †

7.00 The Shakuhachi: third of four programes featuring the Japanese bamboo flute. Played by Yoshikazu Iwamoto. †

7.20 Play: Boney Jan and the Flying Man, by Nigel Baldwin. With Charlotte Cornwell, Tom Wilkinson and Susan Wooldridge An interrogation after a British military aircraft ditches in the North Sea. Interval at 8.15. Part two of the play begins at 8.20. (r).

9.05 Opera: Un re in ascolto. By Berio Sung in Italian. Recorded at the 1984 Salzburg Festival world première. With the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Lorin Maazel. Soloists include Theo Adam, Karan Armstrong, Sylvia Greenberg, Heinz Zednik and Helmet Lohner. †Part one.

9.55 Six Continents: foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC s With Angus McDermid.

10.15 Un re in ascolto: the second part of the opera by Berio. †

11.00 Manchester Chamber Concert Manoug Parikian (violin), Amaryllis Fleming (cello) and Hamish Milne (piano). Beethoven's Variations in E flat Op 44; and Schubert's Trio in B flat, D 898. †

11.57 News. Until 12.00 VHF only: Open University. From 6.35am to 6.55 Renaissance portraiture.

Radio 2

4.00am Colin Berry. † 6.00 Ray Moore.† 8.05 Ken Bruce.† 10.30 Jimmy Young.† 1.05pm Sports Desk; David Jacobs.† 2.00 Gloria Hunniford† incl 2.02; 3.02 Sports Desk. 3.30 Music all the Way.† 4.00 David Hamilton† incl 4.02; 5.05 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunn† incl 6.02 Sports Desk; 6.45 Sport and Classified results MF only. 8.00 European Soccer Special. Commentary on one of tonight's European matches. 9.30 Listen to the Band. Charlie Chester with brass and military music (continued from VHF). 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Cambridge Buskers. With Michael Copley and Dag Ingram with the busking guests The Glenn Miller Recorder Quintet. 10.15 Tom Mennard tells local tales (new series). 10.30 Hubert Gregg says thanks for the Memory. 11.00 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Bill Rennells presents Nightride.† 3.00 Cynthia Glover sings.† 3.30-4.00 Vintage Sporting Years – 1966.†

Radio 1

On medium wave. † also VHF stereo. News on the half hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm and at 12 midnight. 6.00pm Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 12.00pm Mark Page incl 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Bruno Brookes incl 5.30 Newsbeat. 7.30 Janice Long. 10.00-12.00am John Peel.† VHF Radios 1 & 2: 4.00am With Radio 2 8.00pm String Sound. 8.30 Male Voice Choir of the Year Competition (second round) 9.15 Listen to the Band. Introduced by Charlie Chester. 9.30 As Radio 2. 10.00 As Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am As Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Report On Religion. 7.45 That's Trad. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections 8.15 Classical Record Review. 8.30 Mainstream. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Kicking up the Sawdust. 10.00 News Summary. 10.01 Time Remembered. 10.30 My Word. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 Mediterranean Dialouge. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Nature Notebook. 12.25 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 Handel and the Oratorio. 2.00 Outlook. 2.45 Report on Religion. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 The Classical Guitar. 3.30 Yes Minister. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Rock Salad. 4.45 The World Today 5.00 World News. 5.09 Monitor. 5.25 New Ideas 5.35 Waveguide. 8.00 World News. 8.15 International Soccer Special. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Mediterranean Dialogue. 11.30 Top Twenty. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Yes Minister 1.00 News Summary. 1.01 Outlook. 1.30 Waveguide. 1.40 Book Choice. 1.45 Monitor. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today 3.30 A Bach Celebration. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 International Soccer Special. 5.45 The World Today.

All times in GMT

BBC 1 Wales: 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales headlines. 3.48-3.50 News of Wales headlines. 5.35-6.00 Wales today. 6.35-7.00 Sportloko. 12.05am-12.10 News and weather. Scotland: 12.57pm-1.00 The Scottish news. 6.35-7.00 Reporting Scotland. 7.40-8.10 Superscot '85. 10.05-12.05am Sportscene: Football and international snooker. 12.05 News and weather. Northern Ireland: 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland news. 3.48-3.50 Northern Ireland news. 5.35-5.40 Today's sport. 5.40-6.00 Inside Ulster. 6.35-7.00 Grange Hill. 12.05am-12.10 News and weather. England: 6.35pm-7.00 Regional news magazines.

S4C Starts 1.00pm Countdown. 1.30 SWALK. 2.00 Beth, Sut, Pam, Pryd a Ble? 2.20 Ffalabalam. 2.35 Hyn O Fyd. 3.00 Their Lordships' House. 4.15 Irish Angle. 4.45 Ffalabalam. 4.55 Hanner Awr Fawr. 5.35 Danger Man. 6.00 Brookside. 6.30 Pwl. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Dilyn Yr Og. 8.00 Can Y Gwledydd Bychain. 8.35 Y Byd Ar Bedwar. 9.05 Film: Ticket to Heaven. 11.00 Diverse Reports. 11.30 Eastern Eye. 12.30am Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BORDER As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 It's a Vet's Life. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Gambit. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 12.25am News, Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Job Spot. 1.35 Film: Goodbye My Love (Richard Boone). Hunt for a missing fiancé. 3.30-4.00 Positively Unemployed. 6.00-6.35 News and Scotland Today. 12.24am Late Call, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Portraits of Power. 1.20 Lunchtime 3.30-4.00 Paint Along With Nancy. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00-6.35 Good Evening Ulster. 12.20am News, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25am-9.30 North East News. 12.30pm-1.00 Bygones. 1.20 North East News. 1.25-1.30 Where the Jobs Are. 5.15-5.45 Whose Baby? 6.00 North East News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 12.25am Hard Words for Today. 12.30 Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Benson. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 Simon & Simon. 5.15-5.45 Three Little Words. 6.00-6.35 News. 12.25am Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.35 Wales at Six.

TSW As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Teachers Only. 1.20-1.30 News. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Scene South West. 12.25am Postscript, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 12.25am News, Closedown.

TVS As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Sullivans. 1.20 News. 1.30 Mr and Mrs. 2.00-2.30 Problem Page. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 6.00-6.35 Coast to Coast. 12.25am Company, Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 12.25am Candles in the Dark, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Teachers Only. 1.20-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Phyllis Diller Show. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.55-7.00 Home Cookery Club. 10.30 Election '85. The Deputies. 11.00 Rock of the 70s. 11.25 Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Sullivans. 1.20-1.30 Granada Reports. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Wild Winter. 6.00 This is Your Right 6.25-7.00 Granada Report. 12.25am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Something to Treasure. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 Hardcastle and McCormick. 5.15-5.45 Newshound. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 News 12.25am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Calendar Health Club 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 Falcon Crest. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00-6.35 Calendar 12.25am Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

also on page 34

1924-29, Winston Churchill, (C), photographed with his daughter in 1928.

Ubiquitous box that survives despatches

"Budget" is a derivation from the old French *Bougette*, meaning a little bag. The little bag has long since been a little box, measuring 14½ in by 10 in, carried by every Chancellor but one since Gladstone to the annual ritual of playing shove ha'penny with the contents of the nation's piggy bank.

Gladstone, whose endurance record of a total of 12 years and 4 months as Chancellor at various times between 1852 and 1882 has never been remotely challenged, had the box made for him around 1860, probably as just another Government despatch box of that kind that follow Ministers of the Crown, and the Crown itself, wherever they go.

It was, and still is, a wooden box lined in black with brass locks, hinges and handles, covered on the outside with red leather, now much the worse for wear but still displaying Queen Victoria's gold monogram and the words "Chancellor of the Exchequer".

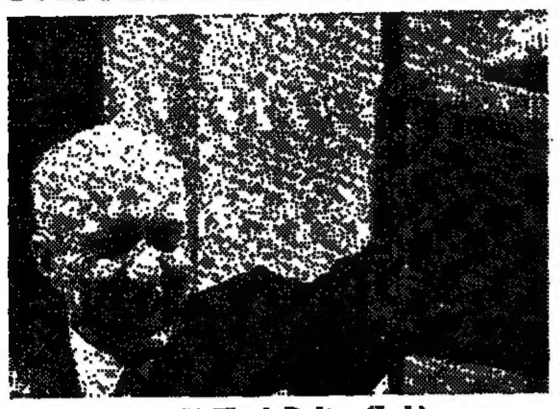
Gladstone, it is reported, when he carried it ot the Commons on his Budget night, "was accustomed to hug it to his breast with a kind of affectionate yearing suggesting the love of a mother for an infant". Unless he was shielding its contents from the Queen, who had a habit of telling W.E. his business.

It has been carried since by the famous and the forgotten: not only by Churchill, Chamberlain, Gaitskell, Macmillan and Healey, but by C. T. Richies, Reginald McKenna, Sir Robert Horne, Sir Kingsley Wood and Sir John Anderson. Chancellors all.

Hugh Dalton, the first postwar Chancellor, invented the habit of waving it at his front door, and of telling a journalist (of halcyon days) what was in it. He never did become Prime Minister.

James Callaghan, who did, was the only Chancellor to break with tradition, appearing for the 1965 and 1966 Budgets with a vulgar brown leather valise, considerably bigger than the Gladstone box with the more correct monogram of the present sovereign, and claiming he was keeping in tune with a new era. His successor Roy Jenkins, a man with a firmer grasp of traditon, revived the Glastone box, and every Chancellor since ha borne his speech to the Commons in it.

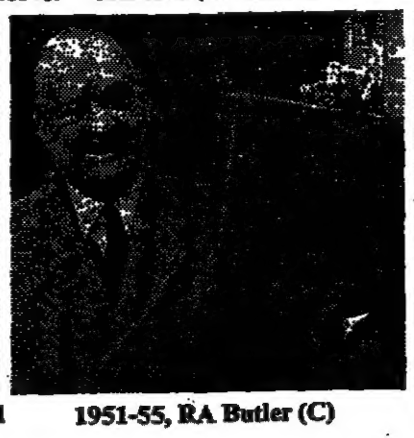
Except, of course, for Iain Macleod, appointed Chacellor in June 1970 only to die a month later, depriving the nation of his talents and himself of taking part in a 125-year old tradition.



1945-47, Hugh Dalton (Lab).

1947-50, Stafford Cripps (Lab)

1950-51; Hugh Gaitskell (Lab)



1951-55, RA Butler (C)

1955-57, Harold Macmillan (C)

1957-58, Peter Thorneycroft (C)

1958-60, Derick Heathcoat Amory (C)

1960-62, Selwyn Lloyd (C)

1962-64, Reginald Maudling (C)

1964-67, James Callaghan (Lab)

1967-70, Roy Jenkins (Lab)

1970- Iain Macleod (C)

170-74, Anthony Barber (C)

1974-79, Denis Healey

1979-83, Geoffrey Howe (C)

1983- Nigel Lawson (C)

Philip Howard in the Commons

Charting a course across thin ice

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was awarded generally high marks for artistic impression in his Budget speech yesterday. His new *routine* was *admirably* five minutes shorter even than last year's; but he emphasized that he was sticking to the course *for* this Parliament that he had charted las year, and that defeat of inflation remained the central theme on which he would perform his flying camel sit-spin.

The marks for technical merit were far more divided. One of the eccentricities of the *dismal sport of* Budget skating on thin ice is that the judges are extravagently partial in their marking of their own skaters. It makes one wonder whether economic skating ought to be considered a *serious, objective sport.* The Chancellor himself described his Budget several times as a Budget for Jobs, smacking the words as if they were delicious with a squirt of lemon and black pepper.

The Leader of the Opposition, who as usual came on after the Chancellor's set figures to perform a short freestyle routine, observed unkindly that Conservative Chancellors always described their per*formances* as Budgets for Jobs, and that they always produced a remorseless increase in unemployment.

But he approved of the Chancellor's radical split jump of graduated national insurance contributions to encourage the employment of the young and unskilled, and claimed that he had cribbed the routine from the last Labour Party manifesto.

Overall, he did not hold up *high marks for content or* technical merit. The impartial view was that the Chancellor had performed well, within inevitably modest limits, and had, as usual, introduced some surprises into his performance. He *has* dropped some of his arrogance in the Paso Doble economic background section, though he can still contrive to give the impression that he knows more about it than anybody else

He had some interesting *new music in the slow section,* when he used Mars the Bringer of War from Holst's *Planets* to describe the heavy cost of the coal strike and the export of inflation from the United States. But he used Jupiter *the* Bringer of Jollity from the same Suite to allegro effect in his last section, when he teased the audience by showing that he had never considered the triple axel of imposing VAT on books, but that he had been pleased to have speculation concentrated on that, so that his VAT leap into newspaper advertising should take them by surprise.

Betty Thatcher, the famous trainer of the monetarist skating pair Lawson and Rees, sat between her beys, looking confident as *usual in grey suit,* mottled blouse, two rows of pearls, and head-mistressly expression. Rees is, in fact, the more colourful of the two dancers, with red face and white handkerchief in his pocket. But they would make it prettier as a spectacle if they would adopt *the magenta* lurex tights and orange jabots of their counterparts in ice dancing.

Probably the most impressive new routine this year was the Chancellor's double salchow that there was *a* strong case for change to a new system of personal allowances treating men and women the same. That would have a revolutionary and equitable effect on the tax system; and could have remarkable effects on economic dancing, if the woman had to wind the man around her body like a cape while hurtling into PAYE, as well as the man doing it to the woman.

In his judge's marks afterwards, Mr Kinnock said that the Chancellor was travelling in circles and sinking all the time. He may have been thinking of his final sit spin, but it is clearly against the *rules* for the dancer actually to sink through the ice.

Mr Lawson's performance had its customary joke. He led the audience up the ice path about a possible VAT on pension funds, and then did a flying split jump away by announcing he had no such *intentions.*

They are going to have to do something to curb the economic dancing hooligans. The Member for Falkirk West, who danced his own amateur Budget Bill just before the *Chancellor, pretended to take a* sip from the star's prop of white wine and seltzer on his way to present his Bill to the Table, and clapped Mr Lawson on the shoulder. The Chancellor then went into his lutzes and spins with a determination that suggested *he is going to be out there* competing for some years yet.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen attends a celebration by the National Children's Home, Royal Albert Hall, 7.15.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends the AGM of Queen Mary's London Needlework Guild, St. James's Palace, 3.30.

The Prince of Wales visits the *Royal School of Military* Engineering and 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), Rochester, 10.

Princess Anne visits Nuneaton; arrives Abbey Hosiery, 2.15 and opens Intec Training Services, 3.40; later she attends the Coventry Branch of the Save the Children *Fund's Gala 40th anniversary* concert, Coventry Technical College, 7.10.

Princess Alice, Patron, East Africa Women's League, attends a *general meeting at Holy Trinity* Church House, Brompton Rd, 2.50.

The Duchess of Gloucester visits South Yorkshire; arrives Rotherham General Hospital 11.45; the National Childrens Home, Rotherham, 2; and later visits the Cheshire Home, Totley, 2.50.

The Duke of Kent visits Watman Reeve Angel, Maidstone, 10.25; and later opens the Kent Fire Brigade's new Control and Command Centre, Maidstone, 12.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Edward Boyle Memorial Trust, attends the memorial lecture, Royal Society of Arts, 5.55.

Prince Michael of Kent attends the presentation of Castrol/IMI Award, Connaught Rooms, 11.45.

Exhibitions in progress

Paintings by Samuel Dodwell; Mid-Cornwall Craft Centre and Galleries, Biscovery, Par; Mon to Sat 11 to 4, Fri 11 to 9 (ends March 30).

Recent ceramics by Madeleine *Battersby; Bolton Museum and Art* Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30; Sat 10 to 5, closed Wed and Sun (ends April 20).

Historic Houses of the Wakefield District; Pontefract Museum, Salter Row; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5 (ends May 4).

The British Art Show: *Old* allegiances and new directions; Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends May 6).

Bronzes by John W Mills; recent paintings by Mary Fedden; and Raku Pots by Stephen Murfitt; Beaux Arts, York Street *Bath;* Mon to Sun 10 to 5. (Ends May 5).

Music

Concert by the Polish Chamber Orchestra; Guildhall, Portsmouth, 7.30.

Concert by the Hallé Orchestra; St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Concert by the Northern Sinfonia Ensemble; Hatton Gallery, The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1.05.

Concert by the Nash Ensemble; Ilkley King's Hall, Bradford, 8.

Concert by the North Winds; Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, 7.30.

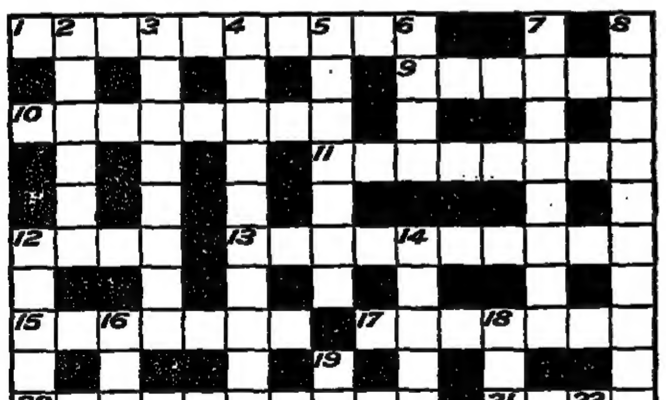
Talks, lectures

What happened to the Royal Forest of Essex? From Forest of Essex to *Epping* Forest, by Mr WH Liddell; Lecture Theatre Block, Essex University, Colchester, 7.

The *Rococo* Garden, by Roger White; Whitworth Art Gallery, Whitworth Park, Manchester, 1.

The Huguenots in England and France, by Dr Robin Gwynn; Room 141, Elvet Riverside Lecture Rooms, Stage 1, New Elvet, Durham, University, 5.15.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,690



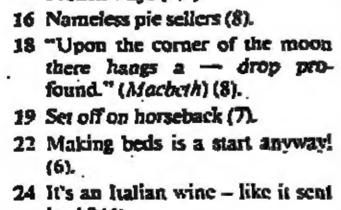
ACROSS

1 The pasta with pests in turned a churchman sick (10).
9 Sound cold food flavouring (6).
10 The manicurist? (8).
11 Country people – swinish breed! (8).
12 Stop up to write about a record (4).
13 May be near a Trust House serving refreshments (10).
15 There's no way spirit can be the remedy (7).
17 A European in hopeless love – never requited (7).
20 *The long arm of the paw!* (6,4).
21 Predicament of a fool with a *little money* (4).
23 Check the remainder before the bad weather (8).
25 Civil-spoken following the *heartless politician* (8).
26 Believe in financial provision (6).
27 A man from the East aids none in revolt (10).

DOWN

2 Put on an overcoat (6).
3 *Time to begin another day!* (8).
4 A drink cures heart-break (10).
5 Left the boat harbour without work and without cover (7).
6 Picture being in charge with no backing (4).
7 Rent allowance cut in restricted accommodation (8).
8 The woman who's got on board (10).
12 Studies hijacking plot (10).
14 Sailors having a smile about the French ways (4,6).
16 Nameless pie sellers (8).
18 "Upon the corner of the moon there *hangs a — drop* profound." (*Macbeth*) (8).
19 *Set off on horseback* (7).
22 Making beds is a start anyway! (6).
24 It's an Italian wine – like it sent back? (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,689



The Eliminator puzzle for competitors who have qualified for the Bristol and London finals of the Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship will appear tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 14

New books – hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
Auden in Love, by Dorothy J. Farnan (Faber, £9.95)
Before I Go, by Mary Stott (Virago, £8.95, paperback £4.50)
Evolution, A Theory in Crisis, by Michael Denton (Hutchinson, £7.50)
H. G. Wells, by John Batchelor (Cambridge, £19.50, paperback £6.50)
Loved Ones, Pen Portraits by Diana Mosley (Sidgwick & Jackson, £12.95)
Love and Exile, by Isaac Bashevis Singer (Cape, £10.95)
The Collected Essays of Asa Briggs (Harvester, two volumes, £30)
The Illustrated Counties of England, edited by James Bishop (Allen & Unwin, £14.95)
Verdi, by Julian Budden (Dent, £13.50)
With Respect Ambassador, An Inquiry into the Foreign Office, by Simon Jenkins and Anne Sloman (BBC, £7.50)
PH

Anniversaries

Births: Ovid, (Sulmona, Italy), 43 BC; Jean-Antoine Houdon, sculptor, Versailles, 1741; Henrik Ibsen, Skien, Norway, 1828.

Deaths: Henry IV, reigned 1399-*1413, London, 1413; Sir Isaac* Newton, London, 1727; Lajos Kossuth, Hungarian nationalist, Turin, 1894; George Nathaniel Curzon, 1st Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India, 1898-1905, London, 1925; Ferdinand Foch, Marshal of France, Paris, 1929; Brendan Behan, writer, Dublin, 1964.

No smoking day

Today, to coincide with the first day of spring, is National No Smoking Day. The day is sponsored by the main organisations concerned with smoking and health, and has the backing of the Department of Health.

Roads

The Midlands: A5: Roadworks are continuing on several sections of the A5, at Stretton, Weston under Lizard and also on the Tern Bridge, Atcham. A422: Roadworks continuing between Stratford and Worcester in Alcester, traffic reduced to a single line, controlled by temporary traffic lights. A49: Roadworks between Hereford and Leominster at Newton Bridge, near Newton village; traffic reduced to single lane controlled by temporary signals.

Wales and West: M4: Various lane closures in both directions between junctions 8 (A48) and 19 (M32, Bath and Bristol); contraflow. A38: Lane restrictions northbound at March Mills viaduct between Plymouth and Exeter; lane restrictions between South Brent and Marley Head in various places. A4173: Stroud Rd in Glocester, closed southbound; diversion; northbound unaffected.

The North: M62: Eastbound lane closures between junctions 33 (A1, Doncaster) and 34 (A19, Selby). M6: Lane closed at junction 29 (Bamber Bridge), Lancashire; diversion signed. A49: Temporary lights and diversions on Scotland Rd, Warrington.

Scotland: A82: Road widening N of Letterfinlay; single line traffic between 8am and 8pm.

Veterinary charity

A veterinary charity, the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, provides free treatment for animals owned by people who cannot afford private veterinary care. The dispensary also publishes free (with sae) leaflets on keeping dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, golden hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, parrots, tortoises, terrapins, fish, mice and rats, *budgerigars and canaries.* Leaflets are also available on caring for injured and young wild birds, pet safety in the home and garden, coping with parasites that attack pets, and "pets and the senior citizen". People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, PDSA House, South St, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 2LB; tel: Dorking 888291.

Portfolio

Portfolio – how to play
Monday–Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a *share of the prize money stated for that week,* and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim
Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-53272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The *Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be* accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims *line between the stipulated times.*

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

● Some Times Portfolio cards include minor misprints in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

● The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same *way as before.*

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.68	1.60
Austria Sch	27.00	25.80
Belgium Fr	78.00	74.00
Canada $	1.625	1.545
Denmark Kr	13.82	13.12
Finland Mkk	8.00	7.60
France Fr	11.75	11.20
Germany DM	3.86	3.66
Greece Dr	169.00	158.00
Hong Kong $	9.25	8.65
Ireland Pt	1.245	1.186
Italy Lira	2420.00	2310.00
Japan Yen	308.00	290.00
Netherlands Gld	4.37	4.14
Norway Kr	11.00	10.50
Portugal Esc	210.00	198.00
South Africa Rd	2.63	2.33
Spain Pta	211.00	201.00
Sweden Kr	11.00	10.50
Switzerland Fr	3.24	3.10
USA $	1.19	1.13
Yugoslavia Dnr	286.00	270.00

Retail Price Index: 359.8.

London: The FT index closed up 2.1 at 997.5.

Snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	50	220	good	powder	good	fine	-5
Good skiing all slopes							
Andorra-Soldeu	50	180	good	heavy	good	snow	-2
New snow on good base							
Arosa	110	150	good	powder	good	fine	-8
New snow on good base							
Courmayeur	150	385	*good*	*good*	*good*	*fine*	-2
Superb skiing off piste							
Grindelwald	40	120	good	powder	fair	fine	3
Worn patches lower slopes							
Leysin	40	100	good	varied	fair	fine	1
Good skiing on piste							
Murren	80	230	good	powder	good	fine	-3
Superb skiing everywhere							
St Anton	30	250	good	powder	good	clear	-2
Excellent condition							
Val Thorens	130	260	good	powder	good	sun	-8
superb powder everywhere							
Zermatt	30	120	good	varied	poor	sun	-2
Good skiing upper slopes							

In the above reports, supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain representatives, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. Other snow reports page 24.

Weather forecast

An anticyclone over Scandinavia will recede E but maintain a weak ridge of high pressure over the British Isles; a depression to the S of Iceland will push frontal troughs into W districts later in the day.

6 am to midnight

London, central S, NW, central N England, Midlands, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Mainly dry with sunny intervals; wind variable, light; max temp 7C (45F).

SE, E, NE England, East Anglia, Aberdeen: Rather cloudy with snow showers dying out, some bright intervals developing; wind E or SE light; max temp 6C (43F).

Channel Islands, SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, SW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: Sunny intervals at first, becoming cloudy with perhaps a little rain or sleet in places later; wind S, moderate, locally fresh; max temp 7C (45F).

Argyll, N W Scotland, Northern Ireland: *Rather cloudy, occasional rain* or sleet, more persistent later, snow on hills; wind S strong locally gale; max *temp 8C (46F).*

Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, scattered snow showers; wind S, fresh; max temp *5C (41F).*

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Rather cloudy with rain at times in W districts, mainly *dry with sunny intervals* in the E; becoming less cold.

SEA PASSAGES: *S North Sea, Strait of Dover:* Wind SE moderate or fresh, snow showers; visibility moderate; Sea moderate. English Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SE fresh increasing strong perhaps gale; *rain* or sleet later; visibility moderate; sea rough.

	Sun rises: 6.04 am	Sun sets: 6.14 pm
	Moon: 6.16 am	Moon: 5.05 pm

New moon tomorrow.

Lighting-up time

London 6.44 pm to 5.31 am
Bristol 6.53 pm to 5.41 am
Edinburgh 6.56 pm to 5.43 am
Manchester 6.52 pm to 5 39 am
Penzance 7.05 pm to 5.53 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	f	5	41	Guernsey	f	5	41
Birmingham	c	2	36	Inverness	f	5	41
Blackpool	s	5	41	Jersey	f	4	39
Bristol	f	4	39	London	c	3	37
Cardiff	s	5	41	Manchester	f	3	37
Edinburgh	f	5	41	Newcastle	c	3	37
Glasgow	c	5	41	Ronaldsway	f	5	41

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 5C (41F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 1C (34F). Humidity 6 pm, 69 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.01in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 3.9hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,010.4 millibars falling.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Chignor, 8C (46F); lowest day max: Anvil Green, 2C (36F); highest rainfall: Carrigans, 0.35in; highest sunshine: Kinloss, 10.5hr.

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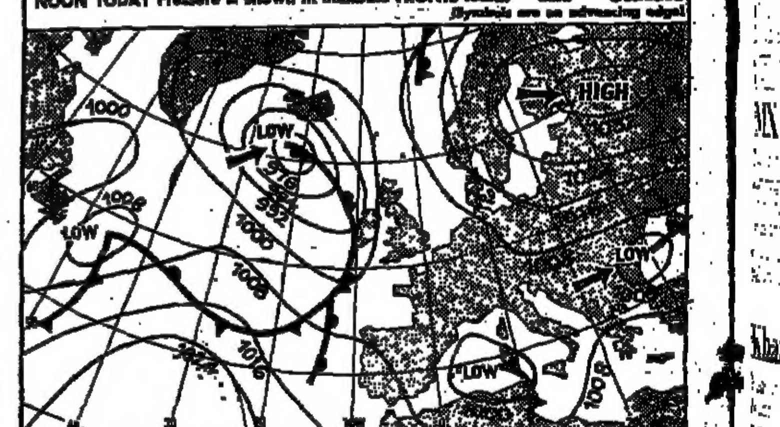
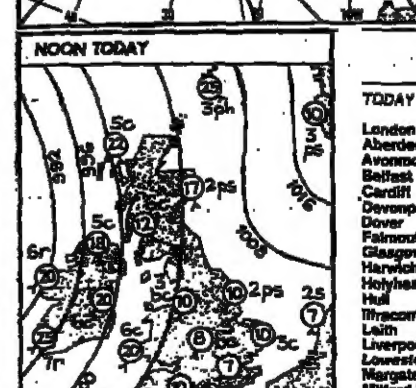
NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)



NOON TODAY



b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures centigrade.

High tides

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.16	6.6	1.44	7.0
Aberdeen	12.55	3.9	12.53	3.9
Avonmouth	6.48	12.4	7.07	12.3
Belfast	10.34	3.2	10.55	3.0
Cardiff	6.31	11.5	6.52	11.4
Devonport	5.27	5.2	5.50	5.2
Dover	10.52	6.0	10.58	6.2
Falmouth	4.37	5.0	5.20	5.0
Glasgow	12.36	4.4	12.52	4.8
Harwich	11.41	3.8	11.51	3.7
Holyhead	9.55	5.3	10.20	5.1
Hull	5.03	6.7	6.01	7.1
Ilfracombe	5.36	8.7	5.54	8.5
Leith	2.16	5.1	2.25	5.2
Liverpool	10.52	9.0	11.13	8.8
Lowestoft	9.19	2.2	9.10	2.3
Margate	–	–	12.05	4.4
Milford Haven	5.50	6.6	6.10	6.5
Newquay	4.41	6.7	5.00	6.5
Oban	5.29	3.8	5.50	3.8
Penzance	4.24	5.3	4.46	5.3
Portland	6.33	2.0	7.06	1.9
Portsmouth	11.01	4.3	11.27	4.5
Shoreham	10.52	5.8	11.15	6.0
Southampton	10.35	4.1	11.02	4.3
Swansea	6.00	8.9	6.19	8.8
Tees	3.21	4.9	3.22	5.2
Walton-on-Naze	11.29	3.8	11.37	3.9

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	F	
EAST COAST					
Scarboro	4.6	.01	4	39	sunny
Bridlington	6.1	–	4	39	cloudy pm
Cromer	2.8	.04	3	37	sleet
Lowestoft	3.0	.02	3	37	snow
Clacton	4.8	.06	3	37	snow am
Margate	–	.02	3	37	snow pm
SOUTH COAST					
Folkestone	5.4	.06	3	37	bright
Hastings	4.7	.04	4	39	snow am
Eastbourne	5.6	.03	4	39	snow
Brighton	–	–	4	39	bright pm
Worthing	6.9	–	5	41	bright
Littlehmptn					
Bognor R	5.8	–	5	41	sunny am
Southsea	6.7	–	5	41	sunny am
Sandown	7.1	–	5	41	showers
Shanklin					
Bournemth	4.7	–	6	43	cloudy
Poole	3.5	–	5	41	snow
Swanage	5.9	–	4	39	bright
Weymouth	5.2	–	6	43	bright
Exmouth	5.0	–	6	43	cloudy
Teignmouth	5.6	.11	6	43	sunny pm

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
WEST COAST					
Ilfracombe	4.3	–	6	43	cloudy am
Tenby	4.0	–	5	41	cloudy
Colwyn Bay	6.9	–	5	41	sunny
Southport	9.2	–	5	41	sunny
Morecambe	10.0	–	6	43	sunny
Douglas	9.1	–	4	39	sunny
ENGLAND AND WALES					
London (Ctrl)	3.9	.01	5	41	snow
B'ham (Airpt)	5.1	.04	5	41	snow pm
Bristol (Ctrl)	7.4	–	6	43	sunny
Cardiff (Ctrl)	8.9	–	5	41	*sunny*
Anglesey	7.9	–	7	45	sunny
B'pool (Airpt)	9.7	–	6	43	sunny
Manchester	9.4	–	5	41	sunny
Nottingham	6.0	–	5	41	bright
N'cstl-n-Tyne	4.9	–	5	41	cloudy
Carlisle	9.1	–	5	41	sunny
SCOTLAND					
Eskdalemuir	9.0	–	4	39	sunny
Prestwick	9.6	–	6	43	sunny
Glasgow	7.7	–	6	43	sunny
Tiree	0.2	–	5	41	cloudy
Stornoway	9.8	–	6	43	sunny

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	f	12	54	Cologne	c	1	34	Majorca	c	11	52	Rome	s	11	52
Akrotiri	s	17	63	Copenhgn	sn	-1	34	Malaga*	s	17	63	Salzburg	f	2	36
Alexandria	f	29	79	Corfu	f	11	52	Malta	c	10	50	Sao Paulo	c	26	79
Algiers	f	20	68	Dublin	c	5	41	Melbourne	s	23	73	S Francisco*	f	11	52
Amsterdm	sn	0	32	Dubrovnik	f	7	45	Mexico C*	s	23	73	Santiago*	s	28	82
Athens	c	9	48	Faro	f	17	63	Miami*	s	21	70	Seoul	s	16	61
Bahrain	s	31	88	Florence	f	10	50	Milan	s	10	50	Singapore			
Barbados*	f	28	82	Frankfurt	c	1	34	Montreal*	s	-6	21	Stockholm	s	2	36
Barcelona	r	7	45	Funchal	c	15	59	Moscow	sn	1	34	Strasbourg	c	1	34
Beirut	s	20	68	Geneva	s	1	34	Munich	c	0	32	Sydney	c	25	77
Belgrade	r	9	48	Gibraltar	f	16	61	Nairobi	f	28	82	Tangier	c	14	57
Berlin	c	2	36	Helsinki	s	-1	30	Naples	f	9	48	Tel Aviv	s	21	70
Bermuda*	r	19	66	Hong Kong	f	19	66	New Delhi	s	25	77	Tenerife			
Biarritz	r	3	37	Innsbruck	f	1	34	New York*	s	23	73	Tokyo	r	7	45
Boulogne	c	2	36	Istanbul	s	18	64	Nice	s	12	54	Toronto*	s	-4	25
Bordeaux	f	6	43	Jiddah	s	33	91	Oslo	s	1	34	Tunis	f	14	57
Brussels	c	-1	30	Jo'burg*	f	23	73	Paris	s	3	37	Valencia	f	18	64
Budapest	f	10	50	Karachi*	s	32	90	Peking	s	12	54	Vancouver*	c	8	46
Buen Aires*	s	21	70	Las Palmas	c	18	64	Perth	f	26	79	Venice	c	9	48
Cairo	s	27	81	Lisbon	r	13	55	Prague	sn	1	34	Vienna	c	2	36
Cape Tn	f	20	68	Locarno	s	10	50	Reykjavik	c	4	39	Warsaw	c	4	39
C'blanca	c	17	63	L Angeles*	f	12	54	Rhodes	c	13	55	Washington*	s	4	39
Chicago*	s	5	41	Luxembg	c	-2	28	Riyadh	s	36	97	Wellington*	f	15	59
Ch'church*	c	13	55	Madrid	c	11	52	Rio de Jan	f	25	77	Zurich	f	-1	30

* denotes Monday's figures are latest available